Hafa Adai!

Wages across the board increased 42 pct. since 2014. PAGE 2

'Drowning victim swimming with brother when they got swept outside reef.' PAGE 3

Saipan Tribune

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'Territories must be represented in Congress'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» National GOP's push for 'equal US citizenship' leaves Kilili skeptical

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he believes "non-state areas" of the U.S. should have "full representation in the U.S. Congress."

Through an email to *Saipan Tribune*, Sablan said he agreed with Sen. Justo Quitugua's (Ind-Saipan) statement last Monday when asked for comments on the Republican National Committee's resolution pushing for "equal U.S. citizenship." The resolution would be submitted to President Donald J. Trump, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI), and Senate Majority leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY). The date of submission was not specified.

"The people of the non-state areas of the United States, the 'territories,' should have full representation in the U.S. Congress," wrote Sablan in his email.

See TERRITORIES on Page 4

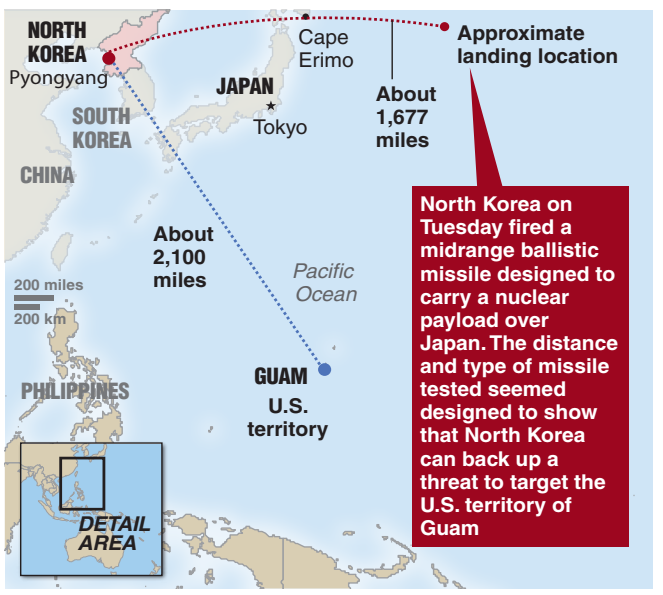
NKorea leader urges more missile launches targeting Pacific

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called for more weapons launches targeting the Pacific Ocean to advance his country's ability to contain Guam, state media said Wednesday, a day after Pyongyang for the first time flew a ballistic missile designed to carry a nuclear payload over Japan.

Tuesday's aggressive missile launch—likely the longest ever from North Korea—over a close U.S. ally sends a clear message of defiance as Washington and Seoul conduct annual military drills. The Korean Central News Agency said the launch was a "muscle-flexing" countermeasure to the Ulchi Freedom Guardian joint exercises that conclude Thursday. Pyongyang views the drills as invasion rehearsals and often conducts weapons tests and escalates its rhetoric when they are held.

The KCNA report said the missile was an intermediate-range Hwasong-12, which the North first successfully tested in May and threatened to fire into waters near Guam earlier

See NKOREA on Page 4


NORTH KOREA
Pyongyang
SOUTH KOREA
CHINA
JAPAN
Tokyo
Cape Erimo
About 1,677 miles
Approximate landing location
About 2,100 miles
Pacific Ocean
200 miles
200 km
PHILIPPINES
GUAM
U.S. territory
DETAIL AREA
North Korea on Tuesday fired a midrange ballistic missile designed to carry a nuclear payload over Japan. The distance and type of missile tested seemed designed to show that North Korea can back up a threat to target the U.S. territory of Guam

Source: BBC, AP
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

House appropriates $7.1M for retirees

ERWIN ENCINARES

House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan), center, is having a discussion with House legal counsel John Cool, left, while vice speaker Janet Maratita (R-Saipan) looks on while in recess during a House session yesterday.

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives passed legislation yesterday to address the remaining balances owed to retirees for fiscal years 2014 and 2015.

It passed the measure after receiving word from the Governor's Office that there is $8.6 million in supplemental funding.

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) authored House Bill 20-116, a bill that seeks to appropriate $7.1 million in fulfillment of a previous stipulation and agreement of settlement to make minimum annual payments to the Settlement Fund.

The agreement provided

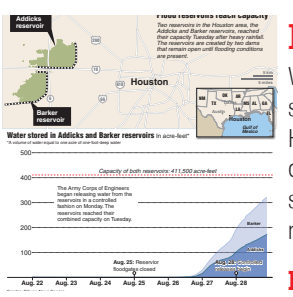
See HOUSE on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL

The Nippon Domonnaka Festival, or Domatsuri for short, that was held in Nagoya Japan last Aug. 25 to 27 saw the participation of CNMI cultural dance group representatives.

PAGE 6


Addicks reservoir
Barker reservoir
Houston
Water stored in Addicks and Barker reservoirs in acre-feet*
Capacity of both reservoirs: 411,500 acre-feet
Aug. 25: Reservoir floodgates closed

NATION

With its flood defenses strained, the crippled city of Houston anxiously watched dams and levees Tuesday to see if they would hold until the rain stops.

PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE

Jon Snow got into serious trouble for refusing to lie about his loyalties in the Season 7 finale of "Game of Thrones."

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

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NEW STORE HOURS
Effective September 1, 2017

Chalan Laulau
Monday to Saturday
8:00am to 5:00pm

WEC Wireless Express Center
Monday to Friday
9:00am to 6:00pm

Kagman Store
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00am to 6:00pm

IT&E

Local

Wages across the board increased 42 pct. since 2014

The CNMI Office of the Governor, through the CNMI Department of Commerce, is pleased to announce the release of the 2016 Prevailing Wage and Workforce Assessment Study (PWWAS) results on the CNMI's Occupational Titles and their Wages.

This is the first of a two-part report planned to be released from the PWWAS. The second part outlines the trends and demographic analysis of the CNMI's workforce and is tentatively scheduled for release before the end of the fiscal year. This is the third round of the PWWAS that provides the data for hiring non-U.S. eligible workforce from outside the CNMI as mandated by the U.S. Law 110-229. The PWWAS was first conducted in 2011 and updated in 2014.

This report contains the comprehensive listing of over 500 Occupational Titles and their wages that the study covers. Additionally, the report also has a section that outlines the survey methodologies and coverage for the community.

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres underscored the importance of the report in providing a clearer picture of the administration's workforce development goals and the economic opportunities now afforded to CNMI residents.

"This report showed a 42-percent increase in wages across the board from 2014 to 2016. In just two years, the average hourly rate in the CNMI went from $8.71 to $12.38. I look forward to working with our local business leaders and the Legislature to continuously work together to strengthen our local workforce. The economic growth has provided more opportunities for residents and is allowing both the new and existing workers a competitive wage that can better lift them from living paycheck to paycheck. We now have more U.S.-eligible workers in our local labor force than at any time since 2004, and I'm pleased that the increase in wages means more income for our residents. This is something we should all be proud of," Torres said.

Secretary of Commerce Mark O. Rabauliman noted that the results of the report will benefit businesses in their planning and will guide policymakers to work together in continuing to improve the economy.

"The upswing in wages evidently represents the socio-economic benefits from jobs that have thrived under the administration's economic agenda. The work that the Central Statistics Division team put in to get this report out has been tremendous. I want to extend my gratitude and appreciation to the businesses and the government entities that participated and gave information for the study. The report has been shared with local stakeholders as well as with key federal agencies and the CNMI awaits federal concurrence on the report anytime soon. We stand ready to work with our federal partners in addressing our workforce and economic needs," Secretary Rabauliman said.

The report will be available through the Department of Commerce's website at: www.commerce.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

CUC keeping up with pace of change

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is aware that the CNMI is rapidly developing and a plan to keep up with the change has become increasingly important as the demand for power, water, and wastewater management in the Commonwealth exponentially grows.

CUC deputy executive director William Gilmore said that CUC is very serious in meeting the demands and expectations of the developing community.

"It does take time to do that so we are going to be looking at very seriously over the next six months to determine what is the best approach," he said.

"We are looking at the power requirements. We are very concerned about getting too far ahead but we do know we need to build more reserve capacity that gives us more flexibility to respond," Gilmore added

Reserve capacity is the generating capacity available to the system operator within a short interval to meet the demand in case a generator goes down or there is another disruption to the supply.

"Essentially, having a reserve capacity of 20 MW over normal operating demand of 40 MW (total of 60 MW) allows CUC to handle a peak demand requirement of 6 to 10 MW that suddenly comes on line leaving 14 to 10 MW of remaining reserve capacity," Gilmore said

"It's actually a buffer that gives CUC flexibility to respond to any excess demand requirement," he added

Gilmore said building CUC's reserve capacity will ensure that they can capture more of that power demand. He hopes that decisions will be made on what they may try to do.

In just two years, major real estate developments have been built and currently two hotel and resort constructions are in the works or starting soon in the northern part of Saipan.

Gilmore said if new establishments and developments like hotels and resorts would open within the year and asks CUC for power requirements, they would not be able to deliver.

"Right now, it all depends in what the power demands are. We have to analyze every particular case. If you are small project maybe a mega watt or 2, we probably can handle you," Gilmore said

He added, "However if you go much beyond that, immediately, probably not. What we would most likely suggest is you have back-up power built."

Gilmore said that in terms of water and wastewater, it all depends on the requirement.

"If you are a low consumer of water, most likely we can probably supply you but again with potable water. If they don't have access to fresh water, they may need an R.O. system or work out a supply with one of the private companies for that. Wastewater we can probably handle that. It should not be a problem," he added

Earlier this month, the CNMI Zoning Board granted conditional permit to American Sinopan LLC so it could begin building its proposed $144.3-million hotel in Tanapag.

Gilmore said, "If they were to ask us for power requirements within the year, I would say no we would not be able to. In terms of water, they are already planning of putting in their own R.O. system to meet their water demands and they are also having their own backup power. They showed 8 megawatts but I heard it may not be that big. Sewer we have the capacity to support them immediately," he added

"But in two years, 2020 or so, CUC would have the capacity to support new establishments," said Gilmore.

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

In celebration of Commonwealth Preparedness Month,
CNMI Homeland Security & Emergency Management,
would like to invite the community to attend the upcoming:

CNMI Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
OPEN HOUSE

WHEN: September 6-8, 2017
TIMES: Walkthroughs/Presentations:
10 AM
2 PM
WHERE: CNMI EOC, Capitol Hill, Saipan
(Behind CNMI Dept. of Finance)

WHO IS INVITED: The CNMI Community to include Partners, Stakeholders, Private Citizens, Community Leaders

WHY: The EOC Open House provides an opportunity for all concerned citizens to partake in a tour of the CNMI Emergency Operations Center. In addition, a preparedness brief will be conducted by staff to discuss Preparedness Measures and upcoming weather outlook for the rest of the 2017.

HOW: Contact your Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point at (670) 237-8000 or (670) 664-8000 to confirm seating. Seats are FREE and limited.

'Drowning victim swimming with brother when they got swept outside reef'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Korean woman who drowned on Tuesday afternoon was swimming with her brother when they got swept outside the reef at Obyan Beach south of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, police said yesterday.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Lt. Jason Tarkong said the victim is a 33-year-old Korean woman, but her name is being withheld pending notification of the next of kin.

Tarkong said police responded on Tuesday at 5:03pm to a reported missing swimmer at Obyan Beach.

Tarkong said police met with witnesses and learned that the victim was swimming with her brother when they got swept outside the reef.

The brother made it back inside the reef, however the victim was then missing. The report did not mention whether the brother was injured or not.

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services' Search and Rescue Unit (SARU) was activated, while DPS Boating Safety Section Zodiac rescue boat was launched for the search operation.

Tarkong said at 6pm police officers recovered the victim on Obyan Beach with no pulse and not breathing

The victim was then transported to the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency room where she was pronounced dead by a doctor.

A source said the victim was last seen at 4:30pm.

The incident happened despite Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres' issuance of a special marine advisory due to Tropical Storm Sanvu. Torres advised the public and inexperienced mariners to avoid venturing to exposed reef lines and beaches, especially along west-facing shores, as rip currents were life threatening.

The governor also urged those operating smaller boats to avoid sailing.

Torres issued yesterday the same advisory, citing that surf will remain at hazardous levels through this morning, Thursday.

Tropical Storm Sanvu moves away

Tropical Storm Sanvu moved away from the Marianas yesterday, but waves and surf along west facing reefs remained hazardous last night until and expected to diminish below hazardous levels this morning, Thursday.

In a special marine advisory yesterday, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres advised the general public to avoid venturing out to exposed reef lines and beaches as rip currents will be life threatening.

Torres said there is a high risk of rip currents along west facing reefs.

According to the U.S National Weather Service in Guam, waves and surf along west facing reefs will remain hazardous at 7 to 9 feet until 6am today on Saipan and Tinian.

"Surf will remain at hazardous levels through Thursday morning," NWS said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

3rd Marianas History Conference starts tomorrow

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is hosting the 3rd Marianas History Conference, which will be held on Saipan from Sept. 1-2, 2017, at Fiesta Resort & Spa. Conference hours will run from 9am to 5pm on both days.

The conference will feature keynote presentations by Julian Aguon, Dr. Carlos Madrid, and Dr. Laura M. Torres Souder. This event is open to the public and free of charge. Seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

In addition to the keynote addresses, the conference will include presentations by 32 local, regional, and international scholars whose research will cover a full range of topics associated with the archipelago's history with a particular focus on the conference's subtheme, "Milestones in Marianas History."

Presentations will be in the following general categories: Ancient Chamorro History; Early Colonial (17th-18th centuries); Late Colonial (19th-early 20th centuries); World War II; Recent (post-war); and Oral History and Genealogical Research.

Please contact staff of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council by email or phone (235-4785) for more details. ***(PR)***

Man, 45, gets 12 years in prison for sexually abusing 8-year-old girl

A 45-year-old man entered a guilty plea on Tuesday to the allegation that he sexually abused an 8-year-old girl last year, and was slapped with a 12-year prison term.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo accepted Gilbert Sablan Pinaula's guilty plea to the offense of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

Pinaula was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment, with three years suspended. He was ordered to serve 12 years without the possibility of parole, furlough or work release

The defendant was given credit for time served of 451 days. After serving the jail term, he will be placed on 10 years of probation.

Pinaula was required to register and comply with the CNMI Sex Offender Registry, prohibited from having unsupervised contact with minors, and ordered to complete any suggested course of treatment deemed necessary by the Community Guidance Center or Office of Adult Probation during the probationary period.

Pinaula will also be prohibited from possessing or consuming any alcoholic beverages or controlled substances during the entire period of probation.

The defendant was ordered to pay restitution, court costs, and probation fees.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Pinaula with sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and disturbing the peace. He and counsel, chief public defender Douglas Hartig, signed a plea deal with assistant attorney general Teri C. Tenorio.

In exchange for pleading guilty to the crime of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree as a lesser included offense, the prosecution agreed to move for the dismissal of the remaining charge. The judge granted the government's request.

According to the factual basis of the plea deal, Pinaula engaged in sexual contact with the girl on June 28, 2016 on Saipan.

Police said during an interview the following day, June 29, according to the mother, she noticed that her daughter was feeling sick and she knew something was wrong so she begged her to tell her what happened.

The girl cried and confessed that Pinaula sexually assaulted her twice in separate incidents. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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CUC increases Fuel Adjustment Charge

Effective Friday, Sept. 1, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announced that the Fuel Adjustment Charge rate will be increased from $0.14605 per kWh to $0.15917 per kWh. As a result, residential customers who use 500 kWh of power per month will pay approximately $6.56 more in their monthly billing.

CUC has been notified by Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. that there has been a rise in the average fuel prices. Accordingly, CUC is required, pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, to increase the FAC pass through rate previously known as the Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause.

CPUC ordered CUC to adjust the FAC rate based on the price of oil. Adjustments are made when the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing equals or exceeds 4.5 percent of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the FAC rate.

CUC first instituted LEAC in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel-related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and the Virgin Islands. In May 2015, the CPUC authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the rate.

The FAC is used to fuel and serves as one of the two components that make up the CUC power bill. The second rate component us the electric base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt servicing. ***(CUC)***

NKOREA

From Page 1

this month.

Kim expressed "great satisfaction" over the launch that he called a "meaningful prelude" to containing Guam and said North Korea would continue to watch the U.S. demeanor before it decides future actions, KCNA said. The U.S. territory is home to key U.S. military bases that North Korea finds threatening.

Kim also said it's "necessary to positively push forward the work for putting the strategic force on a modern basis by conducting more ballistic rocket launching drills with the Pacific as a target in the future."

The launch seemed designed to show that North Korea can back up a threat to target Guam, if it chooses to do so, while also establishing a potentially dangerous precedent that could see future missiles flying over Japan.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missile traveled around 2,700 kilometers (1,677 miles) and reached a maximum height of 550 kilometers (341 miles) as it flew over the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido.

President Donald Trump said North Korea had signaled its "contempt for its neighbors" and that "all options are on the table" in terms of a U.S. response. Trump said in his statement that "threatening and destabilizing actions only increase the North Korean regime's isolation in the region and among all nations of the world."

AP

People fill the square of the main railway station to watch a televised news broadcast of the test-fire of an inter-continental ballistic rocket Hwasong-12, Wednesday, August 30, 2017, in Pyongyang, North Korea.

The U.N. Security Council strongly condemned the launch, which came less than a month after the council imposed its toughest-yet sanctions on North Korea. The statement released after a meeting Tuesday evening in New York doesn't mention any potential new sanctions but calls for strict implementation of existing ones.

Any new test worries Washington and its allies because it presumably puts North Korea a step closer to its goal of an arsenal of nuclear missiles that can reliably target the United States. Tuesday's test, however, looks especially aggressive to Washington, Seoul and Tokyo.

North Korea has conducted launches at an unusually fast pace this year—13 times, Seoul says—and some analysts believe it could have viable long-range nuclear missiles before the end of Trump's first term in early 2021.

Seoul says that while North Korea has twice before fired rockets it said were carrying satellites over Japan—in 1998 and 2009—it has never before used a ballistic missile, which is unambiguously designed for military strikes.

North Korea also chose not to fire its most recent missile at a lofted angle, as it did in previous launches to avoid other countries, and Seoul's spy service said the North launched from an unusual spot: the international airport in its capital, Pyongyang. The North still claimed on Wednesday that its recent launch "had no impact on the security of the neighboring countries."

Some outside observers said launching a road-mobile missile from an airport runway could demonstrate the North's ability to fire its missiles from anywhere in the country.

The launch is also another rebuke to Trump, who suggested last week that his tough approach to North Korea, which included threats to unleash "fire and fury," meant Kim "is starting to respect us."

Tuesday's missile landed nowhere near Guam, but firing a Hwasong-12 so soon after the threat may be a way for North Korea to show it could follow through if it chose to do so. Guam is 3,400 kilometers (2,110 miles) away from North Korea, but South Korea's military said the North may have fired the missile at a shorter range.

SHEFA to fund PLA program

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance plans to offer a Prior Learning Assessment program at the Northern Marianas College.

The PLA program is a program that incorporates on-the-job work experience into actual college credits.

According to Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance board chair Oscar Babauta, the technical aspect of the program is currently being worked on.

"We are currently now trying to clam down on the technical aspects of how we want to proceed in doing the PLA," he said.

Babauta said that the establishment of the program would not serve as a conflict in their policy and their regulations, but if the program does result into a conflict, amendments will be made to accommodate the students who are under the program.

"If it need be, we will have an emergency amendment on our regulations to accommodate these students," said Babauta.

According to Babauta, the committee is trying to fast track the program.

"It's a unique program that academically enhances their skills on their job," said Babauta.

SHEFA board member Raymond Muña hopes that by spring 2018, a solid program will be set in place at the Northern Marianas College.

The plan is to mimic the program that was already established by the CNMI Scholarship Office to further assist the students that are eligible to be a part of the PLA program.

"With the funds that we have now, we can try to help our students but we have to secure funding," said Muña.

TERRITORIES

From Page 1

Under the U.S. Constitution, the only way to have full representation, or two senators and one representative for every 700,000 or so residents, would be for the CNMI to become a state.

"In addition, [the U.S.] Congress could give us statehood by law; no constitutional amendment would be required," said Sablan, explaining that if U.S. Congress so chooses to grant the Marianas statehood, it would be possible.

"If the Republican National Committee is now committed to full representation for U.S. citizens of the Marianas and other non-state areas, then the Republican majorities in the U.S. House and Senate should pass legislation making each of these areas a state," he said.

According to Sablan, it was the Republican Party that "took away" his ability to vote in the Committee of the Whole.

The Committee of the Whole is when all the members of the U.S. House, including delegates of territories, vote on the floor to amend legislation before the vote on final passage.

Sablan said the last time he had a vote in Committee of the Whole was when Democrats held the majority during his first two years in Congress, which was around 2008 to 2010.

"When Republicans came to power, they stripped me and the other delegates of our vote. So, again, I am very suspicious of the Republican National Committee's policy statement," said Sablan, adding that if the Republican National Committee really meant what they are pushing for, they should "immediately restore my vote in the Committee of the Whole."

"… When Democrats were in the majority, I have even served in the Speaker's chair and presided over the U.S. House of Representatives."

"… Talk is cheap. If Republicans really believe in full rights of citizenship for us, then they should take action, just as the Democratic Party has done, when it controlled Congress," said Sablan.

Despite the skepticism, Sablan was glad that the Republican National Committee acknowledges the "second-class citizenship of the people living in non-state areas of the U.S."

The Republican National Committee over the weekend came up with a resolution titled, "Affirming Equal Citizenship for All Americans." U.S. Virgin Islands' national committeeman Jevon Williams sponsored the resolution, which included calling out U.S. Congress to ensure U.S citizens residing in Guam, the CNMI, and the Virgin Islands to fully enjoy the benefits of being a U.S citizen.

Quitugua, when asked for his comments, said he was in support of the intent to provide equal rights for CNMI residents, including the other territories.

"I am in support with the intent to provide equal rights for NMI residents and other territories. I am [in support of] the right for [our delegate] to participate in whole U.S. House sessions and for the right to vote on U.S. House bills," he said in an earlier interview with *Saipan Tribune.*

HOUSE

From Page 1

that if 17 percent of the total annual revenue of the Commonwealth exceeded the minimum annual payment, the Commonwealth would pay the difference to the Settlement Fund.

Such was the case for fiscal years 2014 and 2015. Total annual revenue for fiscal year 2014 was $30.9 million, while the minimum annual payment for the fiscal year was at $25 million and the total annual revenue for fiscal year 2015 was $28.2 million, while the minimum annual payment for the fiscal year was set at $27 million, leaving the government with a combined total debt of $7.1 million owed to the Settlement Fund.

"[We paid this] so that we would not jeopardize the payments to retirees' pensions," said Demapan, adding that if not immediately addressed, pensions may be withheld or "it may draw down from the corpus, but the corpus is meant to be invested so that it could lengthen the life of the retirement fund."

"This required appropriation because this was 17 percent of additional revenues realized from [fiscal years] 2014 and 2015. We do not have the numbers for [fiscal year] 2016 because the audit is still ongoing," said Demapan.

According to Demapan, the additional funding is from the casino generated gross revenue tax.

The Senate passed two previous appropriations bills reluctantly. According to most members of the Senate, Rota and Tinian seemed to have been forgotten. However, Demapan expects the Senate to support the appropriation bill this time since it also concerns the Rota and Tinian retirees.

"I was able to meet with the senators and they all agreed that we address this issue because we don't want to compromise the retirees' pensions," said Demapan, adding that the Senate is going into session today to act on the bill.

Labor sanctions security services agency for numerous regulatory violations

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor Administrative Hearing Office has sanctioned the owner of a security services agency for numerous regulatory violations, including failure to submit a timely workforce plan, total workforce listings, and failure to post employer declarations for 23 job vacancy announcements.

Administrative hearing officer Jerry Cody sanctioned Md. Nurul Islam Bhuiyan, owner of Island Protection Services, with a $1,500 fine.

Cody said $750 of the fine shall be suspended for two years, then extinguished, on condition that the employer pays the remaining portion of the fine and commits no violation of CNMI Labor law during the two-year period.

Cody reversed Labor's Citizen Availability and Citizen Job Placement Section's denial of a certification of good standing for Bhuiyan provided that he complies with this order.

He instructed Labor to issue a certificate of good standing to Bhuiyan as soon as the latter has paid the $750 portion of the sanction.

Cody said if Bhuiyan fails to comply with his continuing obligation to follow with Labor statutes and regulations during the suspension period, he shall be subject to a possible reinstatement of the suspended sanction plus additional monetary sanctions, after a due process hearing on this issue.

According to Labor records, Bhuiyan failed to submit total workforce listings for four quarters in 2016, as required by the employer rules and regulations.

Bhuiyan failed to submit a workforce plan for 2016 in accordance with the NMI Administrative Code regulations.

He also failed to post employer declarations to responders regarding 23 posted job vacancy announcements (JVAs) from 2015 until the present.

The employer testified at the hearing last Aug. 7 at Labor's administrative hearing office that prior to Labor's Citizen Availability and Citizen Job Placement Section's denial of certificate of good standing issued in May 2017, he had not realized that he was obligated to submit total workforce listings on a quarterly basis.

Bhuiyan said as soon as he received the denial, he took immediate steps to correct the deficiencies.

After he received the denial, he prepared and submitted all of the missing total workforce listings.

After the Aug. 17 hearing, Bhuiyan submitted an amended total workforce listing on the second quarter of 2017 that corrected erroneous entries.

At the hearing, Bhuiyan admitted that he had not known about the regulations requiring submission of a workforce plan for 2016 until he received the denial.

Bhuiyan then submitted a current workforce plan for 2017, which Labor Citizen Availability and Citizen Job Placement Section representative deemed acceptable.

Job Placement alleged that Bhuiyan had failed to post timely employer declarations on Labor's website in connection with 23 JVAs that he posted during the period from 2015 through March 2017.

At the hearing, Bhuiyan stated that he had not understood his legal obligation to post responses, but he noted that since receiving the denial, his staff has reviewed all job applicants' resumes and conducted in person or phone interviews with all interested applicants.

Cody determined that Bhuiyan's workforce satisfies the minimum 30 percent ration of U.S. status-qualified workers that is required under the regulations.

At the hearing, the Job Placement representative testified that he would not object to reversal of the denial, provided that Bhuiyan is sanctioned monetarily for failure to submit census-related documents in 2016 and his failure to post employer declarations during a three-year period.

As mitigating factors, Cody noted that Bhuiyan filed his missing documentation after he received the denial; made a concerted effort to review and consider U.S. citizen job applicants for the positions he posted in March 2017; and is currently above the minimum workforce participation goal of 30 percent with respect to its total, full-time workforce.

HANMI occupancy 95 pct in July

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported 94.93 percent occupancy among 11 member hotels for July 2017, a 3-percent increase compared to the prior record of 91.84 percent in July 2016.

» New records for occupancy, room rates

Average room rates were $149.95 during the month, compared to $144.20 last June and the previous record of $145.17 in July 1997. HANMI said 68,301 of 71,949 available room nights sold in July 2017, compared to 65, 908 of 71,765 available room nights sold over the same period last year.

"Record-breaking occupancy and room rates among HANMI member hotels means more government revenue in the form of hotel occupancy tax, BGRT, and other taxes. At the same time, we are employing more local workers than ever," said HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh. "In light of the role our hotels have played in the economic recovery of The Marianas, those hotels leasing public land are eagerly looking forward to being able to extend those leases or negotiate new ones as proposed in SB 20-35. Why fix what's not broken? Rather, let's continue this upward trajectory of economic growth we have started."

HANMI was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the CNMI. HANMI also makes regular charitable donations to support non-profit organizations and tourism-related government projects. ***(HANMI)***

CNMI Scholarship deadline for NMC's PLA program extended to Sept 8

The CNMI Scholarship Office has announced that it has extended the deadline to submit scholarship applications specifically for the Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) program to Friday, Sept. 8, 2017.

Students who would like to apply for financial aid for NMC's PLA program can submit a scholarship application to the CNMI Scholarship Office in Capitol Hill no later than Sept. 8, 2017.

The Prior Learning Assessment Program awards college credit for demonstrable, college-level knowledge gained through employment training programs, military services, and other settings outside the typical academic environment.

The Prior Learning Assessment Program can help working and retired professionals enhance their resumes with college credit, earn college credit towards a degree of their choice, and get ahead in or re-enter the workforce. The typical student enrolling in this program is generally 25 years or older with at least five years of work experience and meets the general admission requirements of the college.

For more information, please contact Raymond Muna, PLA coordinator, by calling 237-6746 or emailing raymond.muna@marianas.edu. Additional information is also available at marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

PSS: No classes on Sept. 1 and 4

The CNMI Public School System, through the Office of the Commissioner of Education, is issuing this official notice that there will be no classes/classroom instruction and public education services on Friday, Sept. 1, and Monday, Sept. 4, in observance of CNMI Labor Day.

All schools, including Early Head Start, Head Start, elementary, middle and high schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will be closed.

Classes and services will resume on Tuesday, Sept. 5, for all schools except for the Early Head Start and Head Start Programs, which have school level Professional Development Day on Sept. 5. For Early Head Start and Head Start Programs, classes will resume on Sept. 6.

Contact the school or the Office of the Commissioner at (670) 237-3061 for any questions. ***(PSS)***

Florentina Mendiola Reyes
P.O. Box 504142 CK,
Saipan MP 96950
670.234-1871

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter of the Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For: J.F.M.R. 12/15/2006 Minor Child	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0337
By: Florentina Mendiola Reyes Petitioners	NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on September 7, 2017 at 10:30am in Courtroom 205A before Honorable Judge Joseph Camacho.

Dated this 19th day of July, 2017.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Hypertension is a major risk factor for heart attack, heart failure, and stroke. It is preventable through maintaining a healthy body weight and following a diet low in sodium and adequate in potassium. Regretfully, most recent survey administered by the CNMI Department of Public Health found that about 70% of adults ate at least 1 daily serving of processed meat, which is a major source of sodium, and only 24% of adults ate more than 5 daily servings of fruits and vegetables. Eating more fruits and vegetables everyday will increase potassium in a person's diet and help to prevent obesity, which is a major modifiable risk factor for hypertension, Type II Diabetes, and some types of cancer.

Please, share this message.

The Racial and Ethic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) program focuses on increasing the intake of fruits and vegetables through the BIBA Healthy Restaurant Project in order to prevent obesity. When dining out, look for BIBA menu items at participating restaurants: Shirley's Coffee Shop, Caravan of Food, and Everest Kitchen.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP-17- CHCC/FACILITY-24

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 25, 2017 TIME: 11:00 AM

"PEST CONTROL SERVICES, FACILITY COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED – UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP-17-CHCC/FACILITY-22

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: September 11, 2017 TIME: 11:00 AM
BID OPENING DATE: September 11, 2017 TIME: 1:00 PM

"GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES, FACILITY, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP-17-CHCC/FACILITY-23

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: September 11, 2017 TIME: 11:00AM
BID OPENING DATE: September 11, 2017 TIME: 2:00 PM

"FUEL & LUBRICATION SERVICES, FACILITY, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Team CNMI takes part in Nippon Domonnaka Festival

The Nippon Domonnaka Festival, or Domatsuri for short, that was held in Nagoya Japan last Aug. 25 to 27 saw the participation of CNMI cultural dance group representatives.

Pacific Development Inc. managing director Gordon Marciano said the festival is held in Nagoya every year and it started in 1998.

"The team dance festival features teams throughout Japan and also other countries," said Marciano.

The CNMI team, made up of PDI and Chamorro Carolinian Village Inc.-Canoe Federation warriors, was the only representative from the Pacific Islands, according to Marciano.

He said the CNMI team was composed of five members and were selected on how they helped out in the CNMI 4th of July Liberation Day celebration. Among the five is the 2017 CNMI Liberation Queen Peyton Gomez.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI delegates to the Nippon Domonnaka Festival this year pose with Marianas Visitors Authority-Japan staff and 2017 CNMI Liberation Queen and Peyton Gomez.

He also said that Mike and Awe Saures' children—5-year-old Leo and 3-year-old Dominic who reside in Japan—joined the CNMI Domonnaka team for the festival.

Marciano added that Domatsuri Festival chair Kunihiko Okada recognized, PDI, CCVI-Canoe Federation, and Marianas Visitors Authority for the 15 years of cultural exchange through cultural dance at the festival.

He said the recognition was even featured in the Japan newspaper, *Chunichi* news.

Marciano also said that it was MVA-Japan who advised the PDI-CCVI-CNMI team to consider supporting the event due to the promotional exposure CNMI can receive from the festival.

He said there were 30,000 commemorative booklets that were printed for the event, and the TV exposure featuring the festival was very big.

The PDI managing director emphasized that it was a partnership with the Saipan Mayor's Office, MVA, PDI, and CCVI that brought the CNMI Domonnaka team to the festival.

Marciano also thanked KKMP, IT&E, and Island Apparel for their continued support. ***(PR)***

Philippine passports ready for release

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam, in coordination with the Office of Honorary Consul Eli Arago, is releasing Philippine passports to those who renewed their passports last July 10, 11, 12, and 13.

Passports can be picked up at Finasisu Terraces Apartment Bldg D, 2nd Floor, on top of the Mini-Mart Store, Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm (12-1PM break time). Below is the updated first batch of passport releasing.

Please bring old passport and receipt. For any inquiries or details, call Mel Santos at 233-6293. ***(PR)***

ePassports ready for release for Saipan (July 10-13, 2017)

1 Abergas ,Renato, Abillon
2 Abugan,Yolanda, Cano
3 Achas, Rachel, Comora
4 Agpawa, Celso, Desamito
5 Aguila, Gemma, Guanzon
6 Aguilar, Ronald, Guina
7 Alarcon, Harley, Vicente
8 Alcain, Candido Jr, Descalso
9 Alcoy, Lourdes Elvira, Lacea
10 Alcoy, Whyett Hunter, Lacea
11 Aldan, Eve, Garong
12 Alejo, Eloisa, Aguinaldo
13 Alfonso, Ma. Concepcion, Dela Cruz
14 Alfonso, Irish Gayle, Dela Cruz
15 Alfonso, April, Gonzales
16 Alkuino, Ronillo, Capin
17 Alkuino. China Minda, Socaoco
18 Alqueza, Jover Jr, Purisima
19 Amano, Aurelio, Talana
20 Amorante, Nelson, Ramirez
21 Amoroso, Alejo, Gruspe
22 Andayak, Daniel, Quezada
23 Andrade, Amelito, Millen
24 Apao, Mary Ann, Magsino
25 Apura, Ruel, De Gracia
26 Austria, Cresencio, Jr, Aguba
27 Baculod, Diann, Bedruz
28 Bajon, Gina, Deñola
29 Balasoto, Melquiades, Catapusan
30 Ballares Carlito Abella
31 Banados, Roy, Limbag
32 Banayos, Emerlinda, Coronel
33 Barcinas, Khaiceel Jorizza, Davis
34 Barcinas, Khaleel RJ, Davis
35 Barrios, Rodolfo, Morana
36 Basañes, Jimmy, Escosa
37 Basilla, Danilo, Tusi
38 Batallones, Ebrando, Geronimo
39 Batallones, Cecilia, Cabute
40 Batallones, Julio Jr, Prado
41 Belamide, Lawrence Jose, Dela Cruz
42 Beltran, Maribel, Mecate
43 Bermudez, Esperanza, Aniceto
44 Bernabe, Carlito, Esidro
45 Blazo, Jerine, Españo
46 Boado, Necitas, Tambo
47 Borromeo, Arthur, Palabasan
48 Borromeo, Noemi, Daligcon
49 Bragais, John Mark, Lumabe
50 Brillo, Walter Jr, Breboneria
51 Buatis, Miriam, Bernabe
52 Buenpacifico, Corazon, Ibamit
53 Bustamante, Marcelo, Gollodo
54 Cabanit, Anastacia, Ababa
55 Cabigting, John David, Nicolas
56 Cabrera, Carmel Joan, Manzanares
57 Cabrera, Angelina, Antonio
58 Cabrera, Rafael, Isabelo
59 Candelaria, Pedro, Carteciano
60 Capati, Nancy, Aguilar
61 Capiendo, Ulysess, Santos
62 Cariño, Maricar, Sarondo
63 Carreon, Macrino, Quiñones
64 Carreon, Jovencio, Rulloda
65 Carreon Manuel Umali
66 Castro, Pilar, Ariston
67 Centina, Lochinvar, Diamante
68 Chicano, Bernie, Arcelao
69 Ching, Susan, Azana
70 Clave, Wrence Juliet, Navalta
71 Clitar, Mario Loreto, Lubiano
72 Concepcion, Diomedes, Jimenez
73 Concubierta, Celso, Bautista
74 Condino, Juan Jr, Abella
75 Condino, Limwell, Bundad
76 Condino, Felix, Abella
77 Crisostomo, Nora, Rialubin
78 Cruz, Maria Jessica, Castro
79 Damasco,Haydee,Peñol
80 Dameg, Basilisa, Obrero
81 David, Ritchell, Rubiato
82 David, Domingo, David
83 Dayao, Arvin, Serrano
84 De Guzman, Bernabe, Mercado
85 De Leon, Mathieu Gabriel, Balila
86 De Leon, Rosendo, Buendicho
87 De Leon, Baltazar, Dizon
88 De Vera, Ramil, De Leon
89 Deazeta, Evelyn, Devilles
90 Decena, Estrella Roja, Dela Cruz
91 Dedal, Alvin, Gardose
92 Dedel, Daniel, jr, Mosquite
93 Del Valle, Ruben, Perillo
94 Dela Cruz, Rena
95 Dela Rosa, Wyuna, Francisco
96 Dela Rosa, Villa, Agranum
97 Delgado, Renato, Lotino
98 Deppas, Kyle, Madelo
99 Depra, Teresita, Serrano
100 Detera, Joel
101 Diaz, Shirley, Cañada
102 Dichoso, Romeo, Jesalva
103 Dicsion, Oxillodoro, Perez
104 Din, Ronald, Mendoza
105 Dionisio, Jolly, Tengco
106 Divina, Ma. Lalaine, Moulic
107 Domingo, Liberato, Valdez
108 Dowez, Monico, Davica
109 Duero, Edna, Mendoza
110 Dungo, Cesar, Jr, Edong
111 Ege, Renato, Superal
112 Ejercito, Joselito, Ramirez
113 Elardo, Gerardo, Gonzales
114 Elchico, Beth, Manuel
115 Elgarico, Doyle, Ancla
116 Erni, Macario, Ramos
117 Escobar, Emma, Sison
118 Esios, Primo, Palingcod
119 Esperas, Ernesto, Fenis
120 Estal, Crisanto, Mason
121 Estal, Maria II, Aguila
122 Estansilao, Aziliah Jewelle, Muna
123 Esteban,Emilia, Rangel
124 Estrada, Mark Hadrian, Puquiz
125 Estrada, Sean Vincent, Puquiz
126 Evangelista, Cecille, Manalo
127 Evangelista, Lorenza, Concepcion
128 Fajutag, Hamilcar, Fallurin
129 Feliciano, Hilario, Pascual
130 Feliciano, Adyl Marie, Santos
131 Fernandez, Alicia, Cayubet
132 Ferrer, Lovella, Visperas
133 Fitial. Marina, Manlapaz
134 Flores, Charina, Onag
135 Flores, Niño, Montañez
136 Francisco, Luzviminda, Surima
137 Frazier, Zahra
138 Galit, Marinelo, Adriano
139 Galvan, Timoteo, Alvendia
140 Gamboa, Emmanuel, Sta. Ana
141 Garcia, Jerome, Patilan
142 Garcia, Edgar, Tolentino
143 Garcia, Rosalie, Magcalas
144 Garcia, Edwin, Castro
145 Garcia, Liwayway, Ocampo
146 Garcia, Diosdado, Mallari
147 Garcia, Carmelino, Balagtas
148 Garillo, Ronaldo, Rosete
149 Gaspar, Helen, Rosario
150 Gaspar, John, Villanueva
151 Gotengco, Julienne Smile, David
152 Goto, Kohjiro, Sangel
153 Gozun, Virgilio, Flores
154 Gracia, Jimmy, Tindoc
155 Guerrero, Virgilio, Casallo
156 Guevarra, Celso, Torres
157 Guevarra, Henry, Cabrera
158 Guevarra, Lou Shrine , San Nicolas
159 Guillermo, Ronald, Reyes
160 Guimalan, Reynaldo, Cudiamat
161 Gutib, Armando, Ybeas
162 Hazlett, Ma. Lourdes, Jabuen
163 Hechanova, Rosalie, Escamilla
164 Heras, Carlos, Lacson
165 Herminigildo, Raymond, Capili
166 Hernandez, John Ray, Arellano
167 Herrera, Resucita, Cruz
168 Hipol, Editha Cecilia, Caluza
169 Hudkins, Andrew James
170 Hudkins, Merle, Costelo
171 Ibañez, Danilo, Ador
172 Ignacio, Aaron Gabriel, De Guzman
173 Ignacio, Athena Noelle, De Guzman
174 Ignacio, Lance Peter, De Guzman
175 Indalecio, Luzviminda, Sanarez
176 Irang, Annabelle, Marcelo
177 Jakosalem, Ma Sandra Teresita, Bartolome
178 Jalla, Perfecto, Verdera
179 Javier, Rudy, Borja
180 Jolejole, Jessie, Rebay
181 Jovelo, Emelinda, Marcilla
182 Kabiling, Mary Jane, Dabu
183 Lacanilao, Rufino, Jr, Sta. Maria
184 Laitan, Fernando, Balanon
185 Lantin, Raeka Shereen, Anog
186 Lapuz, Conrado, Aguilar
187 Laurenaria, Rodel, Sesbreño
188 Lauron, Althea Dionn, Baculod
189 Lavanda, Marites, Ibañez
190 Legaspi, Annie, Aledo
191 Legaspi, Dave, Molines
192 Legaspi, Phoebe, Molines
193 Limon, Barbette, Valbuena
194 Lolong, Ingracio, Olavedez
195 Lopez, Riche, Lacanaria
196 Lusito, Roberto, De Jesus
197 Maalihan, Majie, De Arabia
198 Ma-año, Jeanet, Arias
199 Macapagal, Mandy, Manarang
200 Madlmeduh, Melvin, Salviejo
201 Magcalas, Elvira, Cabico
202 Maglaya, Raffie, Orfanil
203 Magpile, Beverly Jan, Padilla
204 Magpoc, Maria Isabel, Tañala
205 Manacmul, Juliet, Sampang
206 Manalo, Christopher, Bondoc
207 Manaluz, Alfredo, Manalastas
208 Manglona, Kayla, Tamondong
209 Manglona, Carolina, Tamondong
210 Manlabao, Elenita, Poco
211 Manlabao, Juanito, Malit
212 Manlulu, Gilbert, Salenga
213 Manzanares, Macy Carmel, Asibal
214 Manzanares, Sydney, Asibal
215 Manzano, Ronaldo, Barroga
216 Manzano, Prince Joe, Alcantara
217 Mari, Salvacion, Marcos
218 Marquez, Melecia, Polido
219 Marquez, Lerry, Dela Cruz
220 Mateo, Edgardo, Maesa
221 Matulac, Nixon, Sala
222 Matulac, Milagros, Espaldon
223 Maturan, Jelly, Eder
224 Mendoza, Bernardino, Mendoza
225 Mijares, Benedicta, Adviento
226 Morante, Dennis, Ramos
227 Myers, Karens, Genelaso
228 Nadal, Joy, Tapuroc
229 Natividad, Benilda, Mabalot
230 Nicolas, Elvira, Guzman
231 Nieva, Liberty, Quindoza
232 Nieves, Alfredo, Saavedra
233 Noceda, Rodolfo, Villanueva
234 Nogoy, Jennette, Jimenez
235 Obando, Maria Concepcion, Masarque
236 Ocampo, Julie Christine, Rosas
237 Ogaya, Arsenio, Awa-ao
238 Olita, Ermelanda, Basañez
239 Omotoy, Maria Hazel, Limon
240 Ong, Mathew Robert, Santiago
241 Ong, Rosario, Santiago
242 Ong, Zabdiel Aiden, Guevarra
243 Orbeta, Teddy Gil, Ravis
244 Orense, Arvin, Ramilo
245 Oris, Aris, Paloma
246 Ortiz, Federico, Valdez
247 Padilla, Luzviminda, Limliman
248 Palomares, Elvie, Castillo
249 Pamintuan, Elyza Kyle, Mallari
250 Pamintuan, Joji, Tagaban
251 Pancha, Emmanuel, Ogad
252 Panganiban, Cleofe, Madreo
253 Pangelinan, Yolanda, Negru
254 Paraiso, Rogelio, Buensuceso
255 Parohinog, Efren, Baruela
256 Pascua, Lizette, Gragasin
257 Pecson, Joseph, Sampang
258 Peñalosa, Guillerma, Del Rosario
259 Peñalosa, Walter, Daya
260 Peralta, Jovita, Gonzales
261 Peralta, Felicitas, Repolleza
262 Perfecto, Roderick, Baluarte
263 Pintor, Adrielle Hope, Lumada
264 Pintor, Gabrielle Faith, Lumada
265 Pitpit, Rosalia, Asuncion
266 Pitpit, Albert, Sabado
267 Pullon, Sonny, Dinega
268 Quebral, Christine Joanne, De Leon
269 Quebral, Jed Christian, De Leon
270 Quemado, Emilie, Bajoyo
271 Quiambao, Ed Justine, Usman
272 Quintos, Fletcher Sly, Mendez
273 Rambuyon, Vivian, Berioso
274 Ramirez, Rachel Annv Tolentino
275 Ramos, Elizabeth, Garcia
276 Rancapan, John Dalton, Cosa
277 Rapiz, Deorene, Galenzoga
278 Razon, Adrian, Verdadero
279 Reano, Shiela, Santiago
280 Regla, Irene, Rodica
281 Rementilla, Rommel, Sacdalan
282 Remilloza, Jeyronn, Lucina
283 Remilloza, Rhodjunne, Lucina
284 Reyes, Juan, Reboquio
285 Reyes, Ariel, Librea
286 Reyes, Amelia, Julian
287 Reyes, Teresita, Adrales
288 Reyes, Allen Paul, Salamanca
289 Reyes, Evelyn, De Belen
290 Ricardel, Jeofrey, Badili
291 Rodreges, Charleswell, Geronimo
292 Roque, Marilou, Elumba
293 Roque, Ronald, Rondilla
294 Roxas, Gervacio
295 Rueda, Rolando Jr, Dela Cruz
296 Rufo, Maria Luisa, Silverio
297 Ruiz, Rosalina, Delos Santos
298 Sabado, Roselyn, Merjilla
299 Sabangan, Auralou, Bayan
300 Sacramento, David Jonathan, Francisco
301 Sacramento, Gabriel Angelo, Francisco
302 Sagum, Skyler ABCD, Lumanlan
303 Salazar, Emanuel, Colina
304 Salazar, Teresita, Ranse
305 Salgado, Samson, Fernandez
306 Salta, Roberto, Tala
307 Salvaso , Dulce Corazon, Boncalan
308 San Pascual, Nelia, Atanacio
309 Sanchez, Gloria, Lucero
310 Sandico, Keirstian Vincent, Aquino
311 Santos, Alyrose, Barnuevo
312 Santos, Fernando, Bautista
313 Santos, Ali Jr., Barnuevo
314 Sebastian, Victoria, Milanes
315 Sebastian, Aurelio, Bugaoisan
316 Seno, Shielane, Teetong
317 Sequihod, Maria Heli, Magbago
318 Sergio, Edgardo, Aguila
319 Sergio, Simon John, Tolentino
320 Serrano, Renato, Jr, San Pedro
321 Sion, Exsuperio, Viesca
322 Sison, Edelyn, Olivar
323 Sornillo, Nelson, Gaudiano
324 Suguitan, Imelda, Sansano
325 Sumang, Joel, Cayanan
326 Suministrado, Rodel, Cunanan
327 Taberdo, Remedios, Ballacillo
328 Tagab, Jelma, Maturan
329 Taguimacon, Oscar, Mallilin
330 Taitano, Lenie, Laxamana
331 Taitano, Nila, Lumberio
332 Tamayo Ico, Miguel, Dizon
333 Tan, Karen Gay, Rivera
334 Tanate, Jan Mikaela, Aguilar
335 Tandoc, Arturo, Jr, Manaois
336 Tapaoan, Apolinario Jr, Caraang
337 Tapiador, Jonathan, Coloma
338 Taruc, Cristina, Matias
339 Tesero, Omar, Tababa
340 Tobias, Jocelyn, Lomuntad
341 Tobias, Olivia, Dacula
342 Tolentino, Raymond Kyle, Mactal
343 Tolentino, Reese Kaeley, Mactal
344 Torregosa, Annele, Balili
345 Torres , Catherine, Lopena
346 Trajano, Jasmin, Dizon
347 Tubera, Lawrence, Santos
348 Tubera, Justin, Santos
349 Valdez, Nancy, Adao
350 Valencia, Rogelio, Manzano
351 Valentino, Jay Henry, Macasling
352 Valiente, Jhazmyn Nhicole, Camacho
353 Velasco, Loretta Mary Ann, Lagmay
354 Velasco, Raymond, Torreja
355 Ventura, Alberto, Banarez
356 Vergara, Geronimo, Ferrer
357 Vergara, Gilda, Labarente
358 Viaña, Edilwisa, Sombrero
359 Vidal, Maydeline, Dela Cruz
360 Villaluz, Roque, Adonis
361 Villar, Dominga, Flores
362 Villavicencio, Joanna, Docuyanan
363 Vito, Rogelio, Visperas
364 Vitug, Almira, Dava
365 Yap, Christian Joseph, Tagadiad
366 Zamudio, Rodel, Rafon

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Leslie Ann Pangelinan Sablan-Magofna. God has blessed some many people in this world but you are the best blessing that He's ever given us. God bless you on your special day and may you have many more to come. Enjoy and be safe. Love the wifey, Andy, Riley, Ran, Sabby, and the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CCAC launches 'Know How Project'

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture is pleased to announce the 2017 Folk Arts "Know How Project."

The "Know How Project" consists of various local artisans with different arts disciplines who will be visiting different elementary and middle school bilingual classes to share their knowledge with the students. The project's mission is to promote folk and traditional arts to our youths.

The event will take place throughout the month of September. Six schools have already confirmed their participation. The time of presentations are scheduled according to each of the school's class schedule. Artisans involved in this project are: Ana Kaniki (traditional Bwaii Dance) at Oleai Elementary School, Domi Taisacan (mwar-making) at San Antonio Middle School, Diego Pua (weaving) at San Vicente Elementary School, Lani Marciano (Chamorro dance) at Koblerville Elementary School, Linda Pialur (storytelling), Emi Peter-Palican (music), and Brian Ruben (traditional art) at Hopwood Middle School, Polla Dulei (beads), and Glenn Ruben (traditional Maas/Apangaagh) at Chacha Oceanview Middle School

Artisans in the community are invited to call or visit the Office of the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture and register.

For more information, call Gloriana Teuira, Folk Arts coordinator for the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture at 322-9982/83, or email glorianafolkarts@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

GOVERNOR'S TOURISM CUP SPONSORS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Natashia Tomokane, IT&E marketing, presents a $1,500 check to Marianas Tourism Education Council chair Vicky Benavente, as a sponsor of the 2nd Annual Governor's Tourism Cup scheduled for Sept. 2, 2017. From left, Ray Villagomez (MVA), Tomokane, Benavente, Martin Duenas (MVA), Demi Pagarao (MVA), and IT&E staff.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Glen Perez (third from right) , sales manager Atkins Kroll Saipan, presents a 2017 T-Max to the MVA/MTEC as sponsors of a hole-in-one prize for the 2nd Annual Governor's Tourism Cup, scheduled for Sept. 2, 2017.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Geralyn C. Delacruz, director of Corporate Social Responsibility for Best Sunshine, presents a $2,000 check to GTC tournament director James Nelson, as a sponsor of the Governor's Tourism Cup on Sept. 2, 2017. From left, Alex Palacios (Best Sunshine), Wendi Herring (MTEC board/GM Fiesta Resort & Spa), Vicky Benavente (Office of the Governor/chair, MTEC), Larry Lee (MTEC board), Delacruz, Nelson, Demi Pagarao (MVA), Naomi Nishimura (PSS/MTEC Board), and Glenn Policare (Operations manager Kanoa Resort/MTEC board).

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

WCC chief to speak at SHRM meeting

Francisco Diaz Cabrera, director of the CNMI Office of the Workers' Compensation Commission, will be the main speaker at the Aug. 31, 2017, meeting of the Society for Human Resource Management NMI Chapter. This lunch meeting will be held at the Pacific Islands Club Charley's Cabaret on Thursday, from 11:30am to 1:30pm. The presentation is open to the public. Cabrera will provide an opportunity for questions. The presentation includes the PIC lunch buffet at the cost of $20 for SHRM members and $30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by e-mail at penelope.jones@hyatt.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at 323-5867/68. ***(SHRM)***

Military training at Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Aug. 30, from 6 am to 3pm. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. ***(PR)***

PH consular outreach in September

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam will be holding a mobile outreach on Saipan on Sept. 8 to Sept. 11 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. It will accommodate 640 applicants who pre-registered for passport renewal.

If an individual wants to avail of one of the 640 slots available for the outreach program, they must call the office of Philippine honorary consul to the Commonwealth Glicerio Arago at 233-6293. The individual has to set up the renewal appointment with Mel Santos. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Class of 1987 gears up for 30th-year reunion

The Marianas High School Class of 1987 will be having its 30th-year class reunion on Sept. 23. The reunion is open to any CNMI Class of 1987 graduate, regardless of which high school they graduated from. A Mass in honor of departed classmates will be held at the San Antonio Church on Sept. 23, 2017, at 4pm. The reunion will follow immediately after the Mass, from 5:30pm to 10pm, at the Surf Club (beach side) in Chalan Kanoa, the former Pacific Gardenia Sunset Bar and Grill. To purchase a reunion ticket or to get more information, send an email to cnmiclassof87@gmail.com or join the CNMI Class of '87 Facebook for updates on the reunion event and/or to request for ticket. ***(PR)***

Free cat adoption month

Saipan's animal welfare group, Saipan Cares for Animals, is hosting a free cat adoption month until the end of August. All cat and kitten adoptions are free until the end of the month on Aug. 31. Call Beth at 285-5448 or visit www.SaipanCaresforAnimals.com to find out more. ***(CSA)***

Sobriety checkpoints this week

The Highway Patrol Section of the Department of Public Safety will be setting up sobriety checkpoints on Saipan this week.

On Sept. 2, the first setup from 6:30pm to 8:20pm will cover the area from Chalan Pale Arnold in Garapan to Chalan Laulau. A second setup from 9:30pm to 11:30pm will cover the area from Chalan Monsignor Guerrero in San Jose to Dandan.

Rota DPS will also be conducting DUI/sobriety checkpoints this week.

Today, Aug. 31, the first setup from 7pm to 8:15pm will be along the San Francisco Highway Lotgan area. The second setup from 11pm to 12:15am will be along the San Francisco highway Tatgua area.

On Sept. 1, the first setup from 7pm to 8:15pm will be along San Francisco Highway by Sinapalo 3. The second setup from 11pm to 12:15am will be along San Francisco Highway by the Pinatang Park.

Traffic and patrol officers will also be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser (speed detection) enforcement.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (one hour and 15 minutes). ***(Saipan Tribune)***

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES NMC

Northern Marianas College Rota Center staff members recently hosted a presentation led by representatives from Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and Kanoa Resort, who spoke with 17 high school seniors regarding internship opportunities on Saipan. Fiesta Resort senior human resource manager Pina Deleon Guerrero (standing first from right), stressed the importance of reaching out to the students so that they are aware of their options after graduation.

BIG signs on as Green Gala Emerald Sponsor

Through its cash contribution, Bridge Investment Group has signed on as the latest sponsor supporting Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance's work in conserving the islands' natural resources. Bridge Investment Group's $5,000 cash donation was made to support MINA's fundraising efforts.

BIG chief executive officer Phillip Mendiola-Long expressed that, "We are proud to once again to be an Emerald Sponsor for MINA's Green Gala event. Some may not be aware that Bridge Investment's workforce is 84 percent local. This means we are a unique project in that as local residents we have a stakeholder interest in how we build the project and how we take care of the environment in doing so. After all the construction is done, it is the local residents who are left with the consequences, so I am proud to say that our local team takes environmental awareness, stewardship and protection seriously."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Bridge Investment Group chief executive officer Phillip Mendiola-Long hands the company's $5,000 cash donation to Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance officers for the environmental group's upcoming Green Gala.

Mendiola-Long furthermore states, "Our CSR division was established on April of last year.Since then, the CSR team has prioritized several environmental conservation projects and intend on continuing more projects. We will continue to work with MINA in their efforts to protect our environment, and have already offered to host them on Tinian for future environmental conservation projects."

MINA, the leading conservation nonprofit organization in the Commonwealth, has worked to implement various conservation projects, including the Plastic Bag Challenge, the Schools for Environmental Conservation workshops, the Marine Debris Prevention program, Tasi Watch Program, the Adopt-A-Bin Project, and Managaha Pride Campaign. The organization is supported by project grants and from generous contributions from local businesses and community members. In order to continue its efforts to preserve and protect the CNMI's environment and biodiversity, MINA is seeking the community's participation in the Green Gala event.

The Green Gala will be held on Friday, Sept. 15, 2017 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa. In addition to lively entertainment, dinner and a variety of beverages, the Green Gala will feature highlights from MINA's projects, a silent auction, and many other activities that promise a memorable evening to celebrate over 12 years of working with island communities for conservation.

For more information on MINA's projects, please contact 233-REEF (7333), or send email to minaoutreach@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

USCIS to expand in-person interview requirements for certain immigration benefit applicants

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will begin expanding in-person interviews for certain immigration benefit applicants whose benefit, if granted, would allow them to permanently reside in the United States. This change complies with Executive Order 13780, "Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States," and is part of the agency's comprehensive strategy to further improve the detection and prevention of fraud and further enhance the integrity of the immigration system.

Effective Oct. 1, USCIS will begin to phase-in interviews for the following:

■ Adjustment of status applications based on employment (Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status).

■ Refugee/asylee relative petitions (Form I-730, Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition) for beneficiaries who are in the United States and are petitioning to join a principal asylee/refugee applicant.

Previously, applicants in these categories did not require an in-person interview with USCIS officers in order for their application for permanent residency to be adjudicated. Beyond these categories, USCIS is planning an incremental expansion of interviews to other benefit types.

"This change reflects the Administration's commitment to upholding and strengthening the integrity of our nation's immigration system," said Acting USCIS Director James W. McCament. "USCIS and our federal partners are working collaboratively to develop more robust screening and vetting procedures for individuals seeking immigration benefits to reside in the United States."

Conducting in-person interviews will provide USCIS officers with the opportunity to verify the information provided in an individual's application, to discover new information that may be relevant to the adjudication process, and to determine the credibility of the individual seeking permanent residence in the United States. USCIS will meet the additional interview requirement through enhancements in training and technology as well as transitions in some aspects of case management.

Additionally, individuals can report allegations of immigration fraud or abuse by completing ICE's HSI Tip Form. ***(USCIS)***

E-NAP UPDATES

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Two months into the new Enhanced Nutrition Assistance Program (E-NAP) that increases benefits and makes people with higher income levels eligible for food stamps, Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) was briefed on Tuesday by visiting officials from the Department of Agriculture in San Francisco. Not everyone who is now eligible for the increased assistance has applied, Food and Nutrition Services Administrator Jesus Mendoza (far right) told the congressman. Sablan included $33.5 million in the 2014 Agricultural Act, so more people in the Marianas could get help feeding their families and so that benefits could be raised closer to the level on Guam. The money became available on July 1. Mendoza and Sablan agreed that more needs to be done to let the public know that this new assistance is available at the CNMI NAP offices.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 31, 2000

Bill offers $10K incentive for construction of water catchment

In a move to encourage residents and businesses to build water catchment system, the government will offer tax incentives of up to $10,000 under a piece of legislation cleared yesterday by the House of Representatives. These tanks — to be built to catch rainwater — will help in the efforts to conserve groundwater resources, particularly on Saipan where residents are perennially hit with shortage during the dry months, according to lawmakers. Three government agencies had backed the measure sponsored by Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho, chair of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, aimed at promoting the utilization of rain to supply fresh water to island residents. Called the Water Conservation Act of 2000, HB 12-123 will provide tax credits against any payment made to the government to any household or business establishment that will construct the water catchment system.

Ban on deported aliens await Teno approval

Legislation proposing a permanent ban on reentry of deported aliens into the CNMI is awaiting action by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio after the House of Representatives yesterday gave its stamp of approval on SB 12-2. The House Committee on Judicial and Government Operations endorsed the proposal, noting the ban would be in the best interest of law-abiding residents on the islands.

"If an alien cannot abide by our laws, and has subjected themselves to deportation, then they should forfeit the privilege of being here," it said in a report adopted by the lower house. If it becomes a law, SB 12-2 will at least encourage these aliens to surrender to authorities so that they can ask for voluntary departure instead of facing deportation proceedings in the court.

August 31, 2004

OPA: Gov't 2002 deficit at $80M

The fiscal deficit incurred by the CNMI government and potential claims against its assets—estimated at over $528 million—showed the CNMI's fiscal health in frail condition, which would impact on its ability to render public services.

The Office of Public Auditor has formed a financial audit unit, which would coordinate and monitor all of the CNMI's financial audits. Public Auditor Michael Sablan reported that the CNMI government incurred expenditures exceeding revenue collections from fiscal year 1997 to 2002. An audit of the CNMI's financial statements for fiscal year 2002 indicated a deficit of $80,921,000 for the Commonwealth government. The audit report stated that unreserved fund balance totaled a negative $104,437,000.

CUC cuts legal counsel fee to $194 an hour

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. yesterday renewed the contract of its legal counsel for another year, but cut his retainer fee from $9,000 to $7,000 a month.

CUC chair Francisco Q. Guerrero said the corporation could not let attorney Brien Sers Nicholas go at this time as CUC has at least seven pending lawsuits. The reduction was made as a cost-cutting measure, he added. The board's decision, however, is still subject to condition that retaining Sers Nicholas' legal services is proper under procurement rules.

August 31, 2005

Stranded passengers wait out typhoon

Hundreds of passengers were stranded on Saipan as all airlines cancelled their flights starting late Tuesday evening. Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Carlos Salas said air carriers operating at the Saipan International Airport stopped flying shortly after Tuesday midnight due to zero visibility. The flights were still grounded as of 5pm yesterday. The international service scheduled to leave yesterday are three flights bound for Tokyo and one each bound for Osaka, Seoul, Manila, Nagoya, Shanghai, and Guangzhou. All commuter flights were also cancelled due to the heavy winds and strong rain. Continental said it anticipated resuming Continental Connection service to the CNMI as field conditions permit.

Fire division gets $220K grant

The Department of Public Safety's Fire Division on Saipan received last week a $220,000 grant from the U.S. Fire Administration of the Department of Homeland Security. Acting Fire director Francis S. Taimanao confirmed the award yesterday when he received the award letter from the DHS-USFA. The grant is being provided under the Assistance for Fire Fighters Grant Program for fiscal year 2005. Taimanao prepared and submitted the grant application in April this year.

He said the application is intended for the acquisition of an additional fire fighting vehicle to address the fire divisions' fleet shortfalls. He thanked the CNMI's fire fighters for working with what the department has in its inventory, despite the shortfall in vehicles and fire fighting equipment. He said a grant or an award like this would help them enhance their services to the community.

Medical Mission Outreach Program

PHOTOS By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

A volunteer from the Pentecostal Missionary Church explains the services offered in their annual Medical Mission Outreach program last Sunday.

A volunteer from the Pentecostal Missionary Church offers counseling during their annual Medical Mission Outreach program last Sunday.

A volunteer from the Pentecostal Missionary Church distributes giveaways during the Medical Mission Outreach program last Sunday.

Free haircuts were offered during the Pentecostal Missionary Church's Medical Mission Outreach Program last Sunday.

Many individuals came out to the Garapan Basketball Court last Sunday to avail of the services offered during the Medical Mission Outreach Program.

Free massages were offered during the Pentecostal Missionary Church's Medical Mission Outreach Program last Sunday.

Free blood pressure and blood sugar checks were offered during the Pentecostal Missionary Church's Medical Mission Outreach Program last Sunday.

Free eye screening was offered during the Pentecostal Missionary Church's Medical Mission Outreach Program last Sunday.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

As Houston recovers, Trump's immigration crackdown will figure prominently

Houston faces a flooding crisis of proportions that emergency response officials say they've never seen. The nation's fourth-largest city will spend months recovering and rebuilding. President Donald Trump will get a first-hand view of the devastation during a trip there on Tuesday.

As bad as the situation is right now, it promises to get even worse once flood waters subside and hundreds of thousands return to find their soggy home interiors caked with putrid muck. Anyone in Texas who has experienced weather disasters knows that the recovery effort is one where immigrant labor plays an essential role.

Trump's visit will provide interesting contrasts. Last week, he threatened to shut down the government if funding for a border wall isn't included in the spending package that Congress must approve by Sept. 30. Trump's threat would mean the federal aid spigot for Houston could be turned off in the middle of the recovery effort. That would anger even hardline Texas Republicans.

Trump feels so strongly about his immigration crackdown that, just as Hurricane Harvey was making landfall last Friday, he pardoned former Maricopa County, Ariz., Sheriff Joe Arpaio. Arpaio gained national infamy by defying federal court orders and rounding up Latinos simply because they looked like they might be undocumented migrants.

Trump also has threatened that if Congress doesn't back his immigration crackdown, he might remove deportation restrictions against Dreamers, the undocumented youths who were brought to the United States as children.

Houston has the third-largest population of undocumented immigrants in the country, according to the Pew Research Center. It is now ranked as the nation's most diverse city. Latinos by far eclipse whites and blacks as the plurality population. In June, Houston city leaders voted to join a lawsuit that seeks to block a Texas law cracking down on "sanctuary cities" that harbor undocumented immigrants.

Go to any construction site in Houston, and the language being spoken will be Spanish first and English second. The kinds of labor Houstonians will most need over the next few months will be roofers and drywall removal and installation workers. Ask any construction contractor — thousands will be flocking soon to Houston — how the recovery effort works, and they'll recite a complicated formula that hinges entirely on the narrow reimbursement margins allowed by insurance companies.

To make it all work at prices that Houston homeowners can afford, cheap immigrant labor is a requirement. Even the conservative Texas Association of Business concedes as much, which is why its members are calling for comprehensive immigration reform, not a wall.

Houston is where Trump's Make America Great Again boasts slam up against hard economic reality. He can choose between an immigration crackdown or a more rapid recovery. But he can't have both.

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A black daughter of the Confederacy corrects history

By LISA RICHARDSON
Los Angeles Times

Lisa Richardson is a former member of the Los Angeles Times *Editorial Board.*

As monuments to the Confederacy are swept away from public spaces, white supremacists, neo-Nazis and the president of the United States have been fretting over the so-called attack on history, presumably their history. Their white history.

Attack, assault, erasure, destruction — well, truth and justice in the face of denial and dissembling can certainly feel like that. But there is no such thing as whites-only history, there never was, not even with regard to the Confederacy.

Like millions of African-Americans, I am the descendant of a Confederate soldier. True, we are most likely descendants through coerced sex and rape, but we are descendants all the same. According to Ancestry.com, the DNA of the average African-American is 29 percent European. These bronzed Southern soldiers are literally our forefathers too.

In the peculiar, perverted institution of slavery, white men sired, enslaved and often sold their own children; black nieces and white nephews played together before adulthood drove them to disparate destinies. Whites owned their black siblings. Thomas Jefferson was 45 when he fathered the first of six children on 15-year-old Sally Hemmings, who was his wife's half sister and also her property. My great-great-grandmother Mary Ellen Fulton was her mistress's niece.

None of this is new or secret information. But the Southern states established powerful "don't ask, don't tell" rules that were essential to both their social structure and the economics of slavery. With power on one side and humiliation on the other, our mythical, segregated history took shape.

Of course, most white Southerners of the period were neither villains nor heroes. The majority did not enslave other people, but neither did they advocate the end of slavery or even the softening of slavery. They did not work to halt the worst practices of the era — the sale of children away from parents, the separation of husbands and wives — nor did they seek to end the concubinage of enslaved girls and women. Many did not own slaves simply because they couldn't afford them.

Blacks and whites will have different perspectives on their entwined history. War victory for my white great-great-great grandfather, Jeremiah H. Dial, who enlisted in the 31st Arkansas infantry regiment and was wounded in the battle of Stone River, Tenn., in December 1862, would have meant defeat for my great-great-great-grandmother Lavinia Fulton and their daughter, Mary Ellen. Instead, Lavinia died a free woman, living to play with her grandchildren and give thanks to God every Sunday in church in Birmingham, Ala. I thank God my great-great-great-grandfather lost. Every right-thinking person should be glad he lost.

Yet the monuments debate isn't really about the past. It's about a present-day assertion of white supremacy and whether our nation is going to stop making excuses and stare it down. Most of the statues, as has been widely discussed, were erected long after Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox. They were hoisted into view to assert white dominance at specific points in time when African-Americans gained a measure of political influence — during Reconstruction and the civil rights era. With the bronzes came domestic terrorism, lynchings, bombings and cross burnings. The current uptick in neo-Nazi and white supremacist activity was entirely predictable. With clockwork precision it surged at the time of the nation's first African-American president.

So why do some people treat modern icons as if they were ancient relics, like marbles from the Parthenon?

Fear. History isn't being erased, but it is being corrected. Relocating a Confederate statue to, say, a museum, is an acknowledgment that we see the naked emperor; we see through the contorted logic that it is possible to separate the Confederacy from the institution of slavery, that it's a whites-only story and slavery is blacks-only, and that treason is the same as patriotism.

The president has asked, "Where will it end?" Will the removal of General Lees lead to upheaval for Thomas Jefferson? Trigger the end for George Washington?

I would ask, How could a patriot be confused with a traitor? How can leading a war to bring forth a new country be confused with leading a rebellion to tear it in two?

The two kinds of monuments do, however, have something in common. The memorialized men serve as avatars, as conduits for the values they espoused. Revolutionary-era monuments lead us to contemplate and revere Revolutionary-era values. Confederate monuments do the same for Confederate ideals. The men of both ages were flawed, but the values of one age bind and sustain us as a nation. The values of the other do not.

As for my Confederate ancestor, I consider him without bitterness. He was a man of his time, his family, his community and his culture. He probably wasn't particularly evil — just an ordinary man, without the advantage we have: 152 years' perspective on the Civil War. I have met a few of his white descendants — my cousins — and we regard each other with genuine affection.

To those who would keep Jeremiah Dial frozen in time, forever trapped at the moment he chose a cause on the wrong side of humanity, I believe you do him a disservice. To those who use him as an excuse to fly the flag of modern-day anti-Semitism, racism and bigotry, you have no right.

To all the bronze Confederate soldiers, in whom I see the image of my great-great-great-grandfather, I would extend this grace. Without resentment or rancor, I would move them into museums and there tell the story of their lives. I would end their utility as flashpoints for racism and division, and, once and for all, allow them to retire from their long service as sentries over a whitewashed history.

For America's sake, Trump must be his best self

By JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.

You can only blow so much air in a balloon before it bursts, a concept President Donald Trump needs to master.

One night, he gives a thoughtful, well-ordered, substantive speech on Afghanistan, but then what happened in Phoenix? At a political rally, he reverted to his worst self, a ranting, raving juvenile.

His harangue was largely about criticisms of how he responded to the racist, neo-Nazi, KKK, alt-right rally in Charlottesville, Va., and he was right on some points. But it was essentially me-me-me, off-putting verbosity empowering his critics and weakening his compatriots.

The need was to put the country before himself, for starters, and secondarily, to build confidence in who he is and what he can do. The principle means for both is to discuss pressing issues affecting us-us-us, the American citizenry. Take, for instance, economic growth.

Trump has already given it a major push through deregulation and more energy freedom. He has encouraged consumer and industrial confidence through infrastructure ambitions and plans for tax reform. So, in a calm, cool, logical if emotionally appealing way, he should make the case for his ideas.

When he dwells on Charlottesville while also talking about a government shutdown, treating most news outlets as a monolithic fraud machine and verbally abusing members of his own party, he comes across as a buffoon and makes his own agenda more likely to fail. This is true even though the worst part of how he reacted to the Charlottesville rally was over and done with in short order and the rest of it, while crisscrossed with shortcomings, was pretty much on-target.

The white supremacist, viciously anti-Semitic neo-Nazis who organized the rally are horror cases. It was in fact a neo-Nazi who was arrested for driving a car into a crowd, injuring many and killing an innocent, 32-year-old woman. In his first statement about all of this, Trump said "many sides" were at fault without specifically condemning these ungodly freaks.

He did that because he is a racist, it was alleged, and, at the least, it was a monumental error. Yet, he quickly did hit the neo-Nazis in a no-holds-barred statement. Then there came a press conference on infrastructure and, when question time arrived, the reporters didn't care about infrastructure.

In virtual unison, they shouted angry Charlottesville questions at Trump, whose main point in angry reply was that both the protesters and the counter-protesters were to blame for the violence. He has been bashed for this as much as for his failure to mention the neo-Nazis initially, but he was incontrovertibly correct. Ask Isabella Ciambotti, a University of Virginia student who was at the scene and is quoted in a New York Times story.

"I was on Market Street around 11:30 a.m. when a counter-protester ripped a newspaper stand off the sidewalk and threw it at alt-right protesters," she said. "I saw another man from the white supremacist crowd being chased and beaten. People were hitting him with their signs. A much older man, also with the alt-right group, got pushed to the ground in the commotion. Someone raised a stick over his head and beat the man with it, and that's when I screamed and ran over with several other strangers to help him to his feet."

The counter-protester viciousness is backed up by videos, numerous other first-hand witnesses, news accounts and even a tweet from a New York Times reporter. What everyone with open eyes also knows is that antifa, a group of leftist-embraced, antifascist fascists, was bloodily involved. Here is a fierce, violent, vandalizing group that is growing, hitting again recently in Berkeley, Calif., while neo-Nazis are a mere speck on the current scene.

The left is a real danger — it is right now fighting for an end to free speech — and Trump can fight back only if he keeps from bursting by growing up. He recently did in a unifying speech to the American Legion.

Pray.

Texas Republicans likely won't remember how they voted on Sandy relief

By WALTER SHAPIRO
CQ-Roll Call

Walter Shapiro is a columnist for CQ-Roll Call.

Ronald Reagan began a 1986 press conference by trotting out one of his favorite lines: "I've always felt the nine most terrifying words in the English language are: 'I'm from the government, and I'm here to help.'"

That sentiment succinctly summarizes the conservative philosophy that has governed the Republican Party since the 1980s — all federal spending is suspect unless it goes to the Pentagon. And it helps explain why in early 2013 virtually every Republican in the Texas congressional delegation voted against the $51-billion emergency aid package after Hurricane Sandy devastated New York and New Jersey.

Newly elected Texas Sen. Ted Cruz justified his vote at the time by hyperbolically claiming, "Cynical politicians in Washington could not resist loading up this relief bill with billions in new spending utterly unrelated to Sandy." And Mick Mulvaney, then a second-term House member, championed an unsuccessful drive to fund all Hurricane Sandy aid with sharp cuts to other domestic programs.

But none of these largely bogus objections explain why the GOP-controlled House treated the Hurricane Sandy appropriations with all the enthusiasm normally reserved for a foreign-aid bill. (A possible explanation: Maybe the bulk of House Republicans regarded New York and New Jersey as foreign soil).

House Speaker John Boehner adjourned the House for the 2012 Christmas recess without voting on the Senate-passed Sandy funding. As a result of the House's lassitude, Congress only approved the full funding three months after Hurricane Sandy first struck the Jersey Shore.

This week, in flood-drenched Houston and other hurricane-walloped parts of Texas, I suspect that storm victims are grateful for government help whether it is from FEMA, the Texas National Guard or local officials. And when Congress soon begins working on the Hurricane Harvey aid package, it is a safe bet that few Texas Republicans will be wailing that it is larded with unnecessary extravagances.

At times like this, most Republicans belatedly recognize that only the federal government has the resources to help Texas rebuild and to compensate those who lost their homes, their cars, their possessions and their businesses through no fault of their own.

Perhaps Vice President Mike Pence has learned something since he impetuously declared in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina, "We simply can't allow a catastrophe of nature to become a catastrophe of debt for our children and grandchildren." Now Pence said Monday on behalf of the Trump administration, "We're very confident that the Congress of the United States is going to be there to provide the resources necessary."

Emergencies are not a time to make a fetish out of green-eyeshade budget arithmetic. It is a truth that Republicans failed to recognize after Barack Obama embarked on an unprecedented spending spree in early 2009 to stabilize the economy after the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. And it is a lesson embedded in the tardy and stingy congressional response to Hurricane Sandy.

Maybe this will become a moment for Congress to step away from the self-destructive budget brinksmanship that has been the norm since Newt Gingrich first shut down the government in 1995.

No one in their right mind wants to see FEMA's cleanup efforts halted by Congress failure to keep the government operating or by Donald Trump's petulant veto of a spending bill that does not include his fanciful solar-powered border fence. In similar fashion, the debt-ceiling fight takes on a different complexion when borrowing under the federal Disaster Relief Fund is also affected.

At the same time, Mick Mulvaney, now the OMB director, should feel a tinge of embarrassment over his 2018 budget proposal that called for an 11 percent cut in the FEMA budget. Is it still the official position of the Trump administration that wasteful spending on boondoggles like FEMA should be trimmed to pay for the Pentagon budget?

As a New Yorker, I still find that my emotions well up as I recall those sad-eyed moments of national unity after the Twin Towers toppled on Sept. 11. There was a resolve that never again would we as Americans let petty differences obscure larger truths about who we are as a people.

That moment, of course, passed.

And we are now at a juncture in our history when even the vehement disagreements over the Iraq War seem nostalgic compared to the ugliness of today's politics.

It is too much to hope that President Trump will be transformed by the realities of the devastation as he tours Texas on Tuesday. The sheer act of Trump rushing to the site of the hurricane — while urgent relief efforts are still under way — is a reminder that for our first reality-show president, it is always about him.

But maybe the rest of us can learn something from Houston.

The calamity should remind us that all Americans who are suffering deserve our compassion, regardless of political party, race, religion, language or national origin. For symbolically, in the midst of a hurricane, the same torrents of rain fall on us as Americans whether we live in New York or Texas.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A sanctuary is best option for MTMM

Some of you may be wondering what is happening with the Presidential Executive Order instructing the Secretary of Interior to review a selection of national monument. I have been keeping up on the information and summarize the current status for you below.

Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke has completed his review of 21 national monuments and submitted his draft recommendations to the President at the end of last week. Several monuments were removed from his list before the end of the comment periods and he indicated in public interviews that he recommended changing the boundaries for a handful of sites. Zinke indicated his intention to reduce the size of a couple of land-based monuments, but has yet to be specific about any others. There is no indication than any decisions have actually been made.

As many of you likely know, President Trump tasked Zinke with reviewing national monuments created after 1996 up through the end of the Obama administration. The review consisted of 1) direct fact finding, 2) allowing for public comments, and 3) reviewing existing policies. The deadline for Zinke's report to the President was Aug. 24, 2017.

A quick read of Zinke's report summary to the President doesn't provide any specific decisions or identify what changes will be made where. Instead, the summary discusses how information was collected along with general comments about public participation. According to a press release from the Department of Interior, the report includes considerations of more than 2.7 million public comments, countless meetings and listening sessions. Over 800,000 public comments on marine national monuments alone and 99 percent of these comments supported our marine treasures. Apparently, the actual report is currently in draft form and weeks away from being made final.

Reviewing the news coming out of the White House and the Department of Interior, press releases indicated that 90 percent overwhelmingly support U.S. monuments and for monument protections to remain as is. It was found that the only opponents seemed to be those connected with large-scale industry who want to exploit the resources.

While it's great that President Trump isn't likely to overturn our Mariana Trench Marine Monument, opening the area for any kind of extraction, especially industrial scale commercial fishing, is equally as bad. There are no direct benefits to the people of the Northern Marianas if this happens. Our local fishing resources will continue to decline. It will only get worse.

Another possibility is that Zinke's report will sit with the President indefinitely. If this happens, then the draft management plan that we were promised six years ago, will be set back even further. Zinke and the President should release the management plan before any other decisions are made about the Mariana Trench MNM. Any decision made prior to the release of the management plan should be declared null and void given that one of the three criteria for review will clearly have not been met.

The Friends of the Trench Monument has been asking for a sanctuary from the beginning and we still stand by our original vision from 10 years ago. We didn't get it from Bush or Obama and we hope we can get it from Trump. We strongly support and advocate that a sanctuary is best way forward for the people of the Northern Marianas.

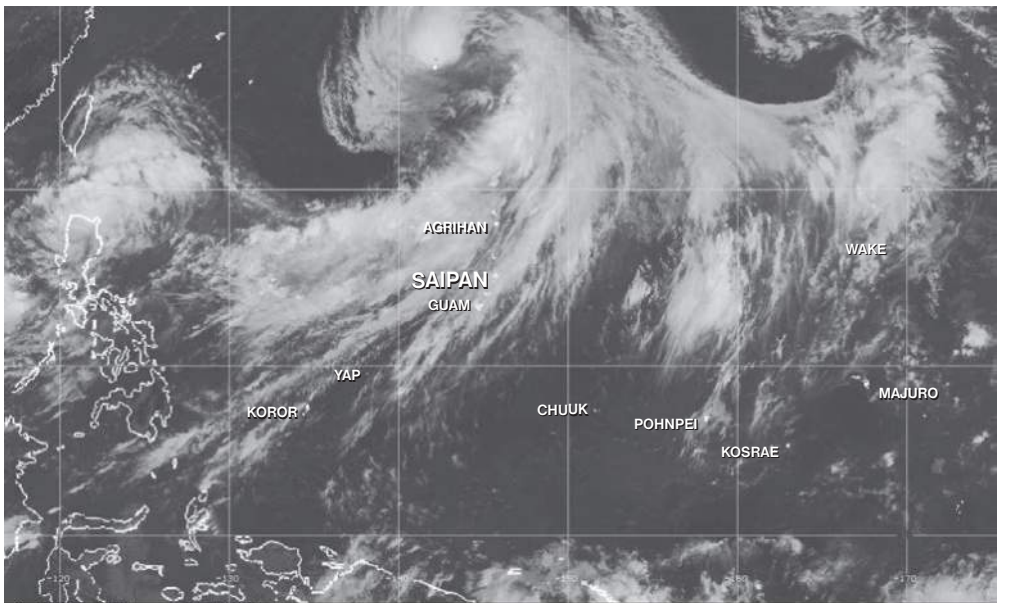
Ignacio Cabrera
I Agag

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:29 AM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The upper level winds from the north are producing a fair amount of vertical shear in the Marianas waters. It is uncertain how much this is affecting Tropical Storm Sanvu since it is so far to the north. For our local weather it is more of a curiosity. Upped the clouds to partly sunny for today as they appear to be slow to depart. Models were hinting at this Sunday. For now just delayed the clearing 12 hours, the day shift should review again. Looks like there are clearer skies preparing to move in on satellite, so that is the main reason for delaying the clearing rather than removing it.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	61° / 52°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	82° / 66°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Mostly Sunny	68° / 50°
Los Angeles	Sunny	98° / 75°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	63° / 48°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	87° / 81°
New York	Partly Cloudy	84° / 59°
Osaka	Sunny	84° / 70°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	68° / 54°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	81° / 68°
Rome	Sunny	91° / 72°
Salem	Thunderstorms	88° / 71°
San Francisco	Sunny	74° / 60°
Seoul	Sunny	82° / 61°
Tokyo	Sunny	82° / 64°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	86° / 63°

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:40 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.58
9:19 AM	LOW TIDE	0.26
4:36 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.50
9:39 PM	LOW TIDE	1.15

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:27 PM
Monday	6:04 AM	6:27 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:43 AM	1:15 PM
Friday	-	1:29 AM	2:40 PM
Saturday	-	2:18 AM	3:27 PM
Sunday	-	3:08 AM	4:15 PM
Monday	-	3:59 AM	5:00 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 21, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily
ZE582	4:45pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
PR1572	4:40am	6:45am	1, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
ZE583	10:05am	3:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7
ZE581	10:10am	3:55pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	2:50pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:40am+1	3, 7
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UO424:50pm	12:05am+1		2, 6
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	3
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UO42	6:40pm	2:00am+1	7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

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Business

Private companies drive 'new space race' at NASA center

AP
This July 14, 2017, photo shows the United Launch Alliance Vertical Integration Facility at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—For the first time since the retirement of the space shuttle in 2011, NASA says it may soon have the capability to send astronauts to the International Space Station from U.S. soil.

Critical milestones are on the horizon for Boeing and SpaceX, the space agency's commercial crew partners: Flight tests of their spacecraft, including crewed missions, are planned for 2018.

That's launched something of a "new space race" at the Kennedy Space Center, officials said.

"We have invested a lot as a center, as a nation into Kennedy Space Center to ready us for that next 50 years of spaceflight and beyond," said Tom Engler, the center's director of planning and development. "You see the dividends of that now, these commercial companies buying into what we're doing."

The public-private partnership is transforming Kennedy Space Center into a multiuser spaceport. NASA is developing the Space Launch System and the Orion spacecraft for missions to deep space, including to Mars, leaving private companies to send people to low Earth orbit.

Boeing is building the CST-100 Starliner, a spacecraft that will send astronauts to the space station, in a hangar once used to prepare space shuttles for flight. Three Starliners are in production, including one that will fly astronauts next year.

"If Mars is the pinnacle of Mount Everest, low Earth orbit is base camp. The commercial companies are the sherpas that haul things there," said Chris Ferguson, a former NASA astronaut and director of crew and mission operations at Boeing. "It opens up a whole new world of business."

SpaceX, which flies cargo missions to the space station with its Dragon spacecraft, has modified an old shuttle launch pad for its Falcon 9 rockets, which the company has successfully reused. It plans to use Dragon 2, a new version of the spacecraft, to send astronauts to the space station.

Blue Origin, founded by Amazon.com founder Jeff Bezos, is building a rocket factory; it also plans to launch its rockets from Cape Canaveral.

Boeing and United Launch Alliance built a crew access tower so astronauts can board the Starliner. The Atlas V, one of the world's most reliable rockets, will launch the spacecraft and its astronauts.

"This is really the Apollo era for the next generation," said Shannon Coggin, a production integration specialist at United Launch Alliance. "This is inspiring this next generation to fall in love with space again, to really test their boundaries and us paving their way for the future of commercial space exploration."

To meet NASA's requirements, Boeing and SpaceX must demonstrate their systems are ready to begin regular flights to the space station. SpaceX's first flight test is scheduled for February. Boeing's is scheduled for June.

Shell, Exxon say some pollution released as storm hits Texas

DALLAS (AP)—Pollutants have been released from refineries operated by Exxon, Shell and other companies as torrential rains damaged storage tanks and other industrial facilities on the Texas Coast.

Shell told state regulators this week that a floating roof over a tank at its oil refinery in Deer Park, Texas, partially sank during the heavy rainfall. The company said 100 pounds of benzene and 100 pounds of toluene were released.

A similar event happened at Exxon Mobil Corp.'s refinery in Baytown, Texas. David Gray, a spokesman for the Environmental Protection Agency, said the company reported the release of 15 pounds of benzene. The EPA classifies benzene as a carcinogen. Toluene, a solvent, is less toxic.

A Shell spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"This is an unprecedented storm, and we have taken every effort to minimize emissions and safely shut down equipment," said Exxon spokeswoman Charlotte Hufaker. She said the Irving, Texas-based company was monitoring emission levels and was committed to complying with environmental laws.

Other refinery and chemical plant operators have reported releases due to Harvey, which came ashore as a hurricane but was later downgraded to a tropical storm.

The disclosures highlight the danger posed by flooding in a refinery-rich section of the Gulf Coast that stretches from Corpus Christi, Texas, to Louisiana.

The flooding has caused the shutdown of about 15 percent of the nation's refining capacity, sending gasoline prices higher.

Gasoline futures rose 6 cents, or 4.1 percent, to $1.78 a gallon in trading Tuesday. Retail prices have gained more slowly—up 4 cents in the last week to $2.38 a gallon, according to auto club AAA.

Earlier Tuesday, Motiva Enterprises said that its refinery in Port Arthur, Texas—the biggest in the nation—had cut output to just 40 percent. Motiva, which is owned by Saudi Aramco, the state-owned oil company of Saudi Arabia, said it was dealing with restrictions in the flow of crude oil coming in and products like gasoline going out through pipelines and ports.

A company spokeswoman said there was some water in the plant and local roads were flooded.

The operator of a major pipeline carrying fuel to the East Coast announced it was running at a reduced rate too, compounding pressure on the nation's energy system.

The Colonial Pipeline operator said Tuesday the reduction was due to limited supply from refiners around Houston and storm damage to its facilities in several southeast Texas locations. The company said it dispatched workers to the region.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Hyundai resumes production in China after supply disruption

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Hyundai Motor Co. says it has resumed production at its plants in China while working to resolve a dispute with the supplier that led to a complete production halt. The South Korean automaker said Wednesday the local supplier has resumed providing fuel tanks, bringing its assembly lines in China gradually back to operation. The supplier stopped providing the components when payment was delayed. Hyundai's four plants in China gradually stopped producing vehicles starting last week and came to a full stop as of Tuesday. It was the latest crisis for Hyundai. Its sales in China plunged following the diplomatic row between Beijing and Seoul over Seoul's deployment of a U.S. anti-missile system. The missile system caused China's ire and prompted Chinese consumers to shun Korean cars.

New Jersey to US Supreme Court: Strike down sports bet ban

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—New Jersey officials say the U.S. Supreme Court should strike down a ban on sports betting in all but four states because it wrongly forces states to enforce a regulation that Congress wants. The high court will hear New Jersey's argument this fall that the ban is not legal because it exceeds the authority of Congress. The state has been trying for nearly a decade to legalize sports betting and grab a share of the estimated $150 billion that is bet illegally on sports each year. After being rebuffed in its efforts to regulate legal sports betting, New Jersey tried a different tactic: repealing its regulations regarding sports betting, leaving no law in place at all. The question to be decided by the justices is this: Does a federal statute that prohibits modification or repeal of state-law prohibitions on private conduct impermissibly usurp the regulatory power of states? Major professional and collegiate sports leagues oppose New Jersey's effort to legalize sports betting, saying it would threaten the perceived integrity of the games.

Judge rejects Sarah Palin lawsuit against The New York Times

NEW YORK (AP)—A federal judge on Tuesday tossed out a defamation lawsuit by Sarah Palin against The New York Times, saying the former Alaska governor failed to show the newspaper knew it was publishing false statements in an editorial before quickly correcting them. The written ruling by Judge Jed Rakoff in Manhattan said the lawsuit seeking unspecified damages "fails on its face to adequately allege actual malice." "What we have here is an editorial, written and rewritten rapidly in order to voice an opinion on an immediate event of importance, in which are included a few factual inaccuracies somewhat pertaining to Mrs. Palin that are very rapidly corrected," the judge said. "Negligence this may be; but defamation of a public figure it plainly is not." The decision came weeks after the onetime Republican vice presidential nominee sued over an editorial titled "America's Lethal Politics." The editorial was published in June after a gunman opened fire on Republican lawmakers in Virginia, wounding U.S. Rep. Steve Scalise.

Nation

Crippled Houston watches dams, levees; forecast offers hope

HOUSTON (AP)—With its flood defenses strained, the crippled city of Houston anxiously watched dams and levees Tuesday to see if they would hold until the rain stops, and meteorologists offered the first reason for hope—a forecast with less than an inch of rain and even a chance for sunshine.

The human toll continued to mount, both in deaths and in the ever-swelling number of scared people made homeless by the catastrophic storm that is now the heaviest tropical downpour in U.S. history.

The city's largest shelter was overflowing when the mayor announced plans to create space for thousands of extra people by opening two and possibly three more mega-shelters.

"We are not turning anyone away. But it does mean we need to expand our capabilities and our capacity," Mayor Sylvester Turner said. "Relief is coming."

The rescues went on. Federal and local agencies said they had lifted more than 13,000 people out of the floodwaters in the Houston area and surrounding cities and counties.

Louisiana's governor offered to take in Harvey victims from Texas, and televangelist Joel Osteen opened his Houston megachurch, a 16,000-seat former arena, after critics blasted him on social media for not acting to help families displaced by the storm.

Meteorologists said the sprawling city would soon get a chance to dry out.

When Harvey returns to land Wednesday, "it's the end of the beginning," National Hurricane Center meteorologist Dennis Feltgen said.

Harvey will spend much of Wednesday dropping rain on Louisiana before moving on to Arkansas, Tennessee and parts of Missouri, which could also see flooding.

But Feltgen cautioned: "We're not done with this. There's still an awful lot of real estate and a lot of people who are going to feel the impacts of the storm."

The National Weather Service predicted less of an inch of rain for Houston on Wednesday and only a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms for Thursday. Friday's forecast called for mostly sunny skies with a high near 94.

In all, more than 17,000 people have sought refuge in Texas shelters, and that number seemed certain to increase, the American Red Cross said.

The city's largest shelter, the George R. Brown Convention Center, held more than 9,000 people, almost twice the number officials originally planned to house there. The crowds included many from outside Houston.

By the end of the day, the Toyota Center, home of the NBA's Rockets, had begun accepting people who could not find space at the convention center.

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards said he expected Texas officials to decide within 48 hours whether to accept his offer, which comes as Louisiana deals with its own flooding. About 500 people were evacuated from flooded neighborhoods in southwest Louisiana, Edwards said.

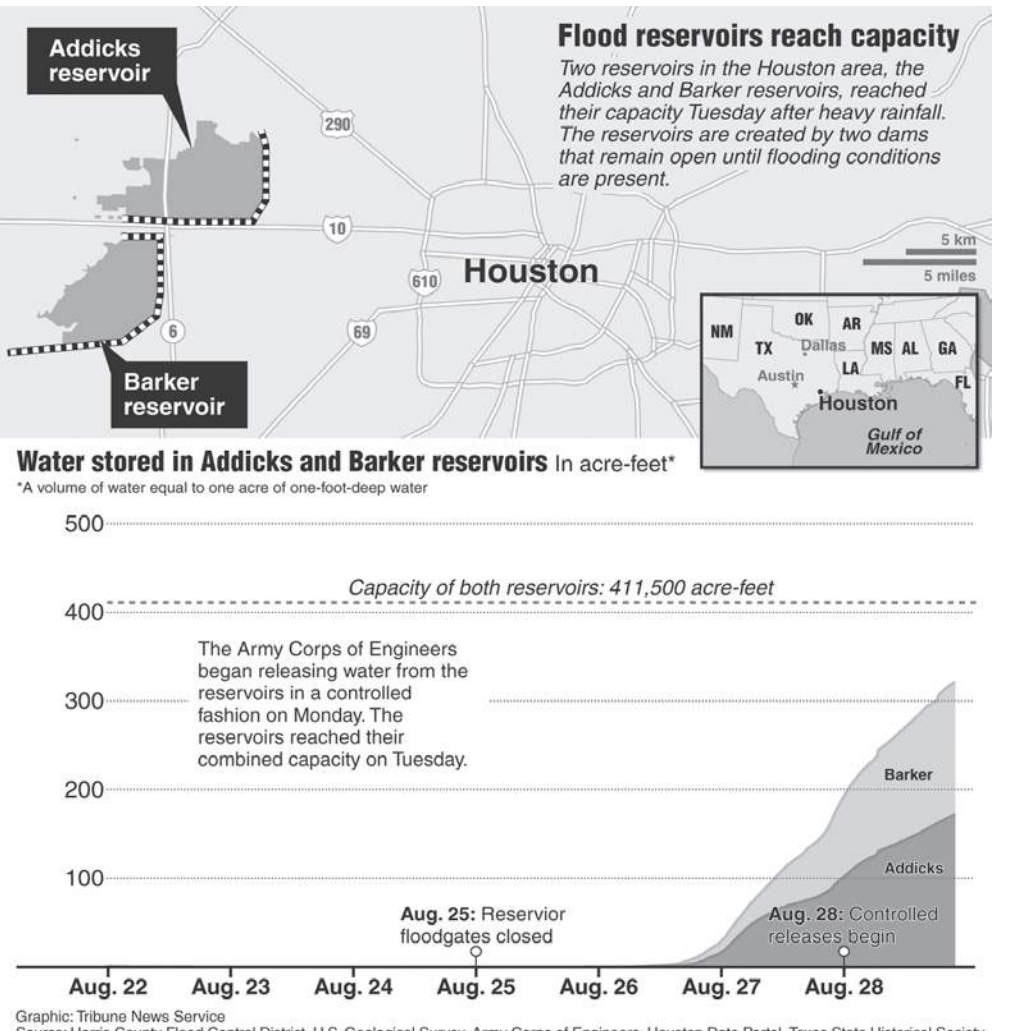
The city has asked the Federal Emergency Management Agency for more supplies, including cots and food, for an additional 10,000 people, said the mayor, who hoped to get the supplies no later than Wednesday.

In an apparent response to scattered reports of looting, the mayor also imposed a curfew. Police Chief Art Acevedo said violators would be questioned, searched and arrested.

Four days after the storm ravaged the Texas coastline as a hurricane, authorities and family members have reported more than a dozen deaths from Harvey. They include a woman killed when heavy rain sent a large oak tree crashing onto her trailer and another woman who apparently drowned after her vehicle was swept off a bridge.

Houston police confirmed that a 60-year-old officer drowned in his patrol car after he became trapped in high water while driving to work. Sgt. Steve Perez had been with the force for 34 years.

Six members of a family were feared dead after their van sank into Greens Bayou in East Houston. A Houston hotel said one of its employees disappeared while helping about 100 guests and workers evacuate the building.



Graphic: Tribune News Service
Source: Harris County Flood Control District, U.S. Geological Survey, Army Corps of Engineers, Houston Data Portal, Texas State Historical Society

Trump offers flag-waving optimism in visit to Harvey's path

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP)—With flag-waving optimism, President Donald Trump answered Harvey's wrath Tuesday by offering in-person assurances to those in the storm zone that his administration will work tirelessly to help the region recover from the massive flooding and storm-inflicted destruction. "We are going to get you back and operating immediately," Trump told an impromptu crowd that gathered outside a Corpus Christi fire station about 30 miles from where the storm made landfall Friday.

For all of his eagerness to get the federal disaster response right, though, Trump missed clear opportunities to strike a sympathetic note for multitudes who are suffering. The president did not mention those who died in the storm or those forced from their homes by its floodwaters. And he basked in the attention of cheering supporters outside the fire station where officials briefed him on the recovery.

"What a crowd, what a turnout," Trump declared before waving a Texas flag from atop a step ladder positioned between two fire trucks. "This is historic. It's epic what happened, but you know what, it happened in Texas, and Texas can handle anything."

Trump is clearly determined to seize the moment and show a forceful response to Harvey, mindful of the political opportunities and risks that natural disasters pose for any president. Trump has been suffering from low approval ratings and self-created crises, and the White House is eager to show him as a forceful leader in a time of trouble.

The president kept his distance from the epicenter of the damage in Houston to avoid disrupting recovery operations. But he plans to return to the region Saturday to survey the damage and meet with some of the storm's victims, said Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

"This is all about people and making sure that we're taking care of the people of Texas," she said. "That's his number one priority."

What little damage Trump saw—boarded-up windows, downed tree limbs and fences askew—was through the tinted windows of his SUV as his motorcade ferried him from the Corpus Christi airport to the firehouse in a city that's already nearly back to normal.

Trump spoke optimistically about the pace of the recovery, and predicted his response would be a textbook case for future presidents.

"We want to do it better than ever before," he said. "We want to be looked at in five years, in 10 years from now as, 'This is the way to do it.'"

Then it was on to his next stop, Austin, to meet with officials at the state emergency operations center.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said Trump showed "genuine compassion" on the short flight to Austin as they watched video footage of the flooding in Houston. "The president was heartbroken by what he saw," the governor said.

Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price told reporters on the way back to Washington that the president's "love for the American people and concern about their welfare is unending."

"His heart goes out to them, as does everybody's heart," he said.

But Ari Fleischer, who served as press secretary to former President George W. Bush, said there was something missing from Trump's remarks in Corpus Christi: "empathy for the people who suffer."

Joel Osteen's Houston megachurch opens doors as shelter

HOUSTON (AP)—Joel Osteen opened his Houston megachurch to those seeking shelter from floodwaters Tuesday after social media critics slammed the televangelist for not offering to house people in need while Harvey swamps the city.

"Houstonians, Texans, are generous people, gracious people. We like to help others in need. That's what you're seeing here today people stepping up and you know and helping these people that have been displaced," Osteen said after opening his Lakewood Church to displaced Houstonians seeking shelter.

Among those who came to the 16,000-seat former arena that was the longtime home of the NBA's Houston Rockets was Jack Bullman. The 56-year-old Long Pine resident sat with a baby blue towel hanging around his neck, trying to dry off and get warm.

"Usually a hurricane comes by and you get hit with the surge and the rain, but here it's lingered so long there's no doubt that it will be catastrophic," Bullman said, adding that he had just rebuilt last year after another flood. "All that hard work, right down the tubes."

Bullman was evacuated from West Houston Medical Center, where his mother was in intensive care after having a stroke. With floodwaters coming, the hospital spent two hours finding a place for him to stay, then gave him a ride to the church.

The church had announced on Twitter late Tuesday morning that it was receiving people who need shelter. Osteen announced the move himself shortly after, adding in a tweet that he and wife Victoria Osteen "care deeply about our fellow Houstonians."

The move followed a day of online criticism from those who claimed the church closed its doors while other places of worship, including several mosques, opened theirs to people who needed help.

A fleet of panel trucks, Mercedes coupes, SUVs and pickups descended on the church. Out came bags of donations—jackets, strollers, bottled water, pants, dresses, stuffed dolls, sheets, pillows—that volunteers piled in a mountain in the church's lobby.

Eugene Rideaux, 42, is a mechanic and member of Osteen's church who showed up to help sort donations. The lifelong Houston resident hasn't been able to work or do much since the storm first hit, so he was eager to get out of his dark house and help.

"When is it going to end? As soon as you think it's clear it comes right back," he said. "Whole neighborhoods under water, I've never seen anything like this. It's almost like life stops."

Across the church lobby, volunteers were starting to process people who needed shelter. Dr. Essam Girgawy volunteered to work in an area for people who need medical attention.

"I'm a physician and this is what I do for a living, and whenever there is a need I come," he said.

Asia

Afghan officials said to talk nearly every day with Taliban

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Despite seemingly stalled peace talks between Afghanistan's government and the Taliban, officials say the intelligence chief speaks by telephone with militant leaders nearly every day about the country's constitution and political future.

In addition, Afghanistan's national security adviser has conversations with the Taliban every other month, officials familiar with the efforts said.

The Associated Press has seen documents describing the conversations between the Afghan officials and the Taliban leadership in both Pakistan and the Gulf state of Qatar, where they maintain an office.

While Afghan officials said neither side was ready to agree to public peace talks, the documents revealed details of the issues discussed, including the Taliban's apparent willingness to accept Afghanistan's constitution and future elections.

A senior Afghan security official, who had taken notes on the details of talks, rifled through a black leather-bound book until he came to a list he called "Taliban talking points."

The Afghan security official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media, said the Taliban wanted certain amendments to the constitution—although not immediately. They also envisioned an Islamic system of governance in Afghanistan, he said.

Among the Taliban's demands, according to the official:

■ They accepted education for boys and girls at all levels, but wanted segregation by gender.

■ Women could be employed in all fields, including defense and the judiciary, and they could serve as judges at all levels except the Supreme Court. However, the Taliban wanted constitutional guarantees that a woman could not be president.

■ Special courts should be established to oversee thousands of cases that allege land was taken illegally by the rich and powerful in the post-Taliban era. Many of the land owners are former warlords who are now in the government. The Taliban wants the land returned to those from whom it was taken.

■ Elections could be held after an interim government is established, with no one affiliated with past governments allowed to serve in the interim administration. The Taliban said all sides could keep areas currently under their control until voting is held.

Afghanistan's Intelligence agency had no comment about the contacts with the Taliban. Officials familiar with the conversations said intelligence chief Masoum Stanikzai has near daily telephone conversations with Taliban leader Abbas Stanikzai, who is not related to him. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters.

National Security adviser Mohammed Haneef Atmar's office refused requests to comment on reports of his contacts with the Taliban in Doha, Qatar.

"I am confident that these are sincere terms from the Taliban—with the qualification, of course, that in the areas they control they will determine the outcome of the elections—because I have heard variants of them put forward by a range of people from or close to the Taliban," said Anatol Lieven, professor at Georgetown University's campus in Qatar and the author of "Pakistan: A Hard Country."

But the path to substantive and public peace negotiations is difficult, he said.

"Apart from anything else, it is difficult to imagine the existing elites (in Kabul) surrendering power and patronage to a neutral government, let alone one that in future would inevitably have to include the Taliban," Lieven said.

Duterte says Marcos family eyeing return of money, gold bars

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said Tuesday the family of former dictator Ferdinand Marcos has indicated a willingness to return a still-unspecified amount of money and "a few gold bars" to help ease the government's expected budget deficit.

Duterte said without elaborating that he was considering designating three people, including a former Supreme Court chief justice, to negotiate with the Marcoses over the return of the assets.

Duterte said the Marcoses' intention was relayed by a family spokesman, whom he did not identify, and indicated the Marcoses were of the view that the assets to be returned had not been stolen as alleged by political opponents.

"I will accept the explanation, whether or not it is true," Duterte said in a speech to newly appointed officials.

The Marcoses are "ready to open and bring back (assets) including a few gold bars," Duterte quoted the Marcos family spokesman as saying. "It's not that big, it's not Fort Knox, it's just a few but they said, they'll return."

There was no immediate reaction from the Marcos family, including his wife Imelda, who is currently a member of the House of Representatives.

Marcos was ousted in a 1986 "people power" revolt and died in exile in Hawaii three years later without admitting any wrongdoing, including accusations that he and his family amassed an estimated $5 billion to $10 billion while he was in power.

Marcos placed the Philippines under martial rule in 1972, a year before his term was to expire. He padlocked Congress, ordered the arrest of political rivals and left-wing activists and ruled by decree.

A Hawaii court found Marcos liable for human rights violations and awarded $2 billion from his estate to compensate more than 9,000 Filipinos who filed a lawsuit against him for torture, incarceration, extrajudicial killings and disappearances.

Although he rose to power last year on a promise to combat widespread crime and corruption, Duterte has acknowledged that one of Marcos' daughters, a provincial governor, backed his presidential candidacy. Duterte has noted that his late father, a local politician, was a trusted Cabinet member of Marcos.

In November last year, Duterte approved the burial of the long-dead Marcos at the country's Heroes' Cemetery in a secrecy-shrouded ceremony, sparking protests and shocking many democracy advocates and human rights victims.

Burying someone accused of massive rights violations and plunder at the heroes' cemetery, which is reserved for former presidents, soldiers and national artists, has long been an emotional and divisive issue.

World

Nazi eagle inflames heated debate in Uruguay

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (AP)—A big Nazi eagle with a swastika under its talons is such a divisive symbol that it has been kept hidden inside a sealed crate in a Uruguayan navy warehouse for more than a decade.

In this Feb. 10, 2006 file photo, workers salvage the eagle from the World War II German pocket battleship Admiral Graf Spee, in Montevideo, Uruguay. AP

The 800-pound bronze piece was part of the stern of the German battleship Admiral Graf Spee that sank off the South American country's coast at the outset of World War II. Controversy has swirled around the eagle ever since it was recovered in 2006, and now a battle has broken out over its fate after the government asked lawmakers and Uruguay's Jewish community what it should do with it.

Suggestions have ranged from exhibiting or auctioning the Third Reich symbol to keeping it hidden or even destroying it. The debate rages as far-right demonstrations, including the one in Charlottesville, Virginia, have created fears of a rise in neo-Nazism.

"Our concern is that the eagle doesn't generate a Nazi sanctuary in Uruguay that will draw Nazis from all over the region," said Israel Buszkaniec, president of the country's Jewish Central Committee.

The Graf Spee was a symbol of German naval might early in the war. It prowled the South Atlantic and sank several Allied merchant ships before warships from Britain and New Zealand tracked it down and damaged it during the "Battle of the River Plate" that began on Dec. 13, 1939.

The damaged Graf Spee limped into the harbor of Uruguay's capital, Montevideo, where injured and dead sailors were taken ashore. Its captain ordered the ship scuttled, sinking it a few miles from Montevideo to prevent it and its then state-of-the-art technology from falling into Allied hands. Most of the crew was taken by ship to Buenos Aires in neighboring Argentina and the captain killed himself days later.

In 2004, private investors from the United States and Europe funded a multimillion-dollar effort to remove the ship piece by piece from the bottom of the River Plate. In February 2006, a salvage team brought up the eagle.

Thousands of curious people gathered at a hotel in Montevideo where it was exhibited. But the exhibition lasted only a couple of months because of controversy surrounding the symbol.

Germany said it was the rightful owner of the eagle and the vessel. Jewish groups asked that the swastika under the eagle's talons be covered with a cloth. Insurance companies demanded a fortune to exhibit the piece. Finally, the eagle was put in the navy warehouse.

The salvage team sued to demand the right to sell it. But Uruguay's Supreme Court ruled in 2014 that the eagle belonged to the state. The ruling said, however, that if the piece is sold, the salvage group would have the right to 50 percent of the proceeds.

Foreign Minister Rodolfo Nin Novoa recently discarded Germany's claim to the eagle, saying, "What is left is not the ship, but its remains."

Determined to finally decide the fate of the bronze eagle, Defense Minister Jorge Menendez discussed options earlier this month with members of Uruguay's Jewish Central Committee and later with leaders of the country's four main political parties.

WORLD BRIEFS

Guatemala leader at crossroads after court blocks expulsion

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—President Jimmy Morales faced a crossroads Wednesday after Guatemala's highest court ruled he could not expel the head of a U.N. anti-corruption commission from the country. Morales cannot appeal Tuesday's decision by the Constitutional Court, and he now faces a separate legal fight over whether he should be stripped of his official immunity and face investigation over possible illicit campaign financing. That decision will be made by another body, the country's Supreme Court. Morales issued his expulsion order for U.N. commission head Ivan Velasquez early Sunday, two days after Velasquez and Guatemala's chief prosecutor announced they were seeking to lift Morales' immunity from prosecution in order to investigate allegations of illegal financing for his 2015 presidential campaign. The move drew quick condemnation both at home and abroad, where support is strong for the U.N. panel that has worked with local prosecutors over the last decade to combat the corruption long endemic in Guatemala.

Disputed Iraqi province to vote on Kurdish independence

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's ethnically-mixed Kirkuk province, long claimed by both the Arab-led central government and the autonomous Kurdish region, voted Tuesday to take part in a vote on Kurdish independence slated for next month. Iraq's Kurds plan to hold the referendum on Sept. 25 in three governorates that make up their region as well as disputed areas that are controlled by Kurdish forces but claimed by Baghdad. Iraq's central government is opposed to the referendum. Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi on Tuesday said Kirkuk's decision to take part in the vote was "unconstitutional" and "illegal," and that the referendum would "lead to more conflicts." Kirkuk's provincial council said the proposal to vote in the referendum won a "majority," without providing further details, according to a statement released after Tuesday's session. Arab and Turkmen councilmen boycotted the meeting, according to local councilman Burhan Mizhir Assi.

Environment

The conch is mostly gone from Florida. Can the Bahamas save the queen?

By JENNY STALETOVICH
MIAMI HERALD

TNS
Discarded shells from harvested conch pile up under a dock near Eleuthera last year.

MIAMI—The queen of the sea, a monster mollusk that inspired its own republic in Florida but now is as likely to be found in a frying pan or a gift shop as the ocean floor, is in trouble.

A marine preserve in the Bahamas famed for its abundance of queen conchs and intended to help keep the country's population thriving is missing something: young conchs. Researchers studying the no-take park off Exuma, one of hundreds throughout the Caribbean, found that over the last two decades, the number of young has sharply declined as adult conchs steadily matured and died off. The population hasn't crashed yet like it has in the Florida Keys, but in the last five years, the number of adult conchs in one of the Bahamas' healthiest populations dropped by 71 percent.

For the slow-moving slugs that gather by the hundreds to mate, scientists fear a new, unexpected threat may now doom the park's population: old age.

The discovery also raises questions about the effectiveness of marine preserves, long viewed as a solution to reviving over-fished stocks. If one of the Caribbean's oldest and best marine preserves isn't working to replenish one of its biggest exports — now regulated as tightly as lobster — what does that mean for other preserves and how they're managed?

"We can see (the preserve) works for grouper and sharks," said Andrew Kough, lead author of a study published earlier this month and a larval expert at Chicago's Shedd Aquarium. "But for a lot of the animals you don't consider as much, for example conch that are tied to a complex life cycle of larval dispersal, it's not working."

To find out why, Kough and a team of researchers set sail this month from Miami aboard a Shedd research boat — imagine the Belafonte minus the mini sub in "The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou." For 12 days, they'll dive the deep channels surrounding the park in search of young conchs to count and measure. They'll also take DNA samples to determine where the conchs are coming from. If they can trace the path of the young conchs, the hope is they can find a better way to protect them and manage the fishery.

"The babies are either not coming in in high enough numbers to replenish the adults or there's something else going on in the park that's an unintended consequence," Kough said. "There's so many sharks and rays inside the park they could just be chowing down on baby conchs."

In the Florida Keys, the ghost of the conch looms large: in oversized highway replicas, T-shirts and horns. When he took the throne as king of the Conch Republic, treasure hunter Mel Fisher carried a scepter crowned with a queen conch. But in the Caribbean, conch remains a vital part of the economy, and the reason its governments are so concerned.

Conchs used to be prevalent in Florida, too. But decades of overfishing nearly wiped them out. In the mid-1980s the U.S. banned their harvest to save what was left. Yet more than three decades later, they still have not recovered in Florida waters, an inauspicious sign for the Caribbean.

Across the Caribbean, conchs are as good as currency. Almost anyone who can swim can grab one from the ocean floor and sell it or serve it. Cracked conch or conch salad appears on almost every menu. Their pink-lipped shells line porches and walkways. Countless docks are littered with piles of discarded shells. They are used for everything from jewelry to bait. Whole industries, from fishermen to exporters, depend on a healthy population.

But regulating them has been uneven. While some islands impose seasons and limits on takes — in the Turks and Caicos conch season starts in October and there are set limits on numbers and size — other have not. Populations have plummeted in Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Honduras, prompting the U.S. to ban their imports.

The Bahamas has taken an aggressive approach. In 2013, the government launched a "Conchservation" campaign to save what it considers a national treasure that once gathered in vast herds along miles of flats and seagrass meadows.

In recent years, Kough said those herds have thinned considerably, driving populations down. In the Berry Islands, he said, previous surveys found the sea bottom littered with conchs, which can live up to 40 years and not only hold an important place in the food chain but graze on algae that can kill seagrass. The last time his team visited, Kough said, they found hardly any big adults.

"The fishermen are going further to get the animals," he said. "We found a lot of sub adults and juveniles as well, but it's the adults that are in decline and that just screams fishing."

Scientists believe a healthy population needs between 50 and 100 adults conchs for every 2.5 acres to sustain itself. The patchier the clusters, the harder it is for populations to find each other and connect.

Working with the Bahamian government, Kough hopes to better understand how the conchs are circulating — or more precisely the baby conchs. About five days after female conchs release their eggs in long sandy strands, larvae emerge and get caught up in currents. Because the larval stage can last up to a month, the babies can float more than 100 miles. Kough suspects the young conchs from the preserve are winding up in unprotected areas hammered by harvesting.

Although the Bahamas restricts fishing, Kough said tighter measures may be needed. Regulations currently allow the take of any conch with a flared lip, the smooth curve on its rosy shell, which for years has been considered the indication of a mature conch. Scientists now believe the thickness of the shell is a better measure of maturity, triggering a local move to change rules to require shells be at least as thick as a Bahamian penny.

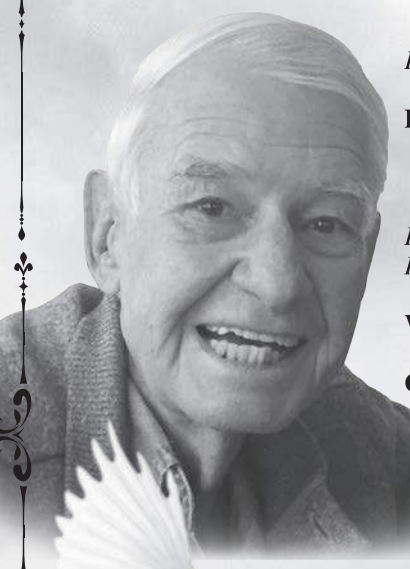
"You don't want to pull up juveniles. You want animals to reproduce," Kough said.

Kough is hoping the team can find some answers by studying currents to map the ocean highways traveled by conch larvae.

"It's a lot more complex because the animals are spending so much time out in the open ocean and outside the boundaries because they're dispersing as larvae," he said. "You can't create a huge ocean open park. Well you could, but how would you enforce that?"

†ENRICO HEINZ STAFFLER

SEPTEMBER 23, 1937- AUGUST 24, 2017



In His New Life He Now Joins His:

Parents: †Anton Staffler
†Getrude Staffler

His Memories Will Forever Live In The Hearts of His:

Wife: Wanlee Saelim Staffler

Children & Grandchildren:

Alexandra "Sandy" Staffler Weaver (Eva and Justin)

Markus And Leila Staffler (Fanai and Coco)

Syvlia Lederer And Peter (Anna-maria)

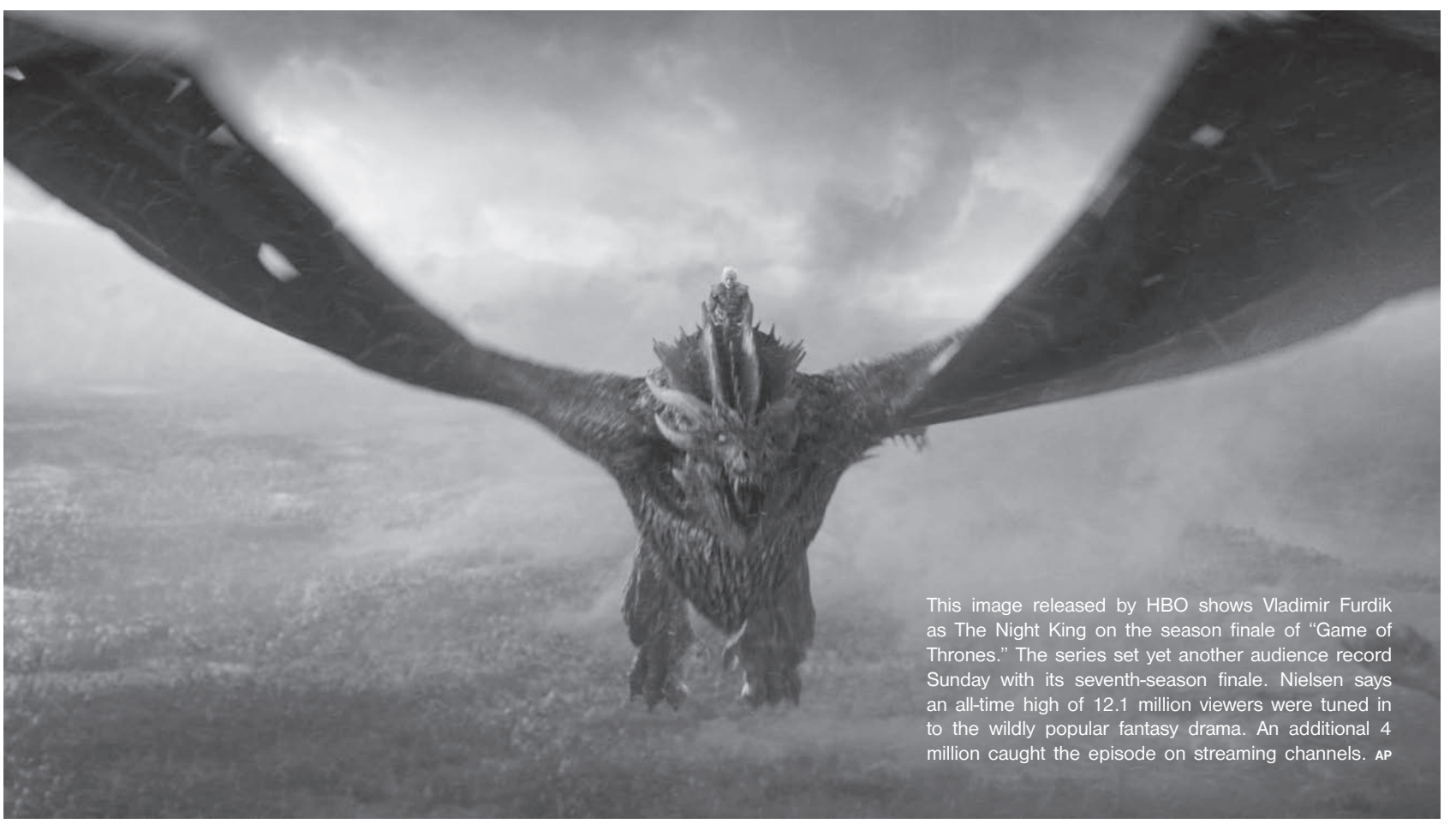
Best Friend: Monika Nugent

He will be greatly missed by numerous cousins, relatives and friends.

Sea burial services will be announced at a later date.

Life & Style

Game of Thrones: Trust me, I'm a Targaryen



This image released by HBO shows Vladimir Furdik as The Night King on the season finale of "Game of Thrones." The series set yet another audience record Sunday with its seventh-season finale. Nielsen says an all-time high of 12.1 million viewers were tuned in to the wildly popular fantasy drama. An additional 4 million caught the episode on streaming channels. AP

WASHINGTON (AP)—Jon Snow got into serious trouble for refusing to lie about his loyalties in the Season 7 finale of "Game of Thrones."

But honesty can be an economic virtue. People who trust each other are more likely to do business.

We discuss the benefits of collaboration and trust, and the perils of going it alone, in this week's "Wealth of Westeros," the Associated Press audio series on the economics behind HBO's "Game of Thrones."

Honesty looked like a mistake when Jon Snow rejected Cersei Lannister's demand for an oath of loyalty, almost causing a breakdown in crucial negotiations. He refused to deny that he'd already sworn allegiance to another: Daenerys Targaryen, Mother of Dragons, Breaker of Chains, etc.

"Have you ever considered learning how to lie every now and then? Just a bit?" said an exasperated Tyrion Lannister.

But Snow argued that lies are corrosive. "When enough people make false promises, words stop meaning anything, and there are no more answers—only better and better lies."

Economically, Snow has a point. Distrust is death to commerce. Why sign a contract if you suspect your would-be partner won't live up to its terms? The World Bank economist Stephen Knack once said the economic chasm dividing the United States and impoverished Somalia could be explained entirely by the difference in the levels of trust within each country.

The lords of Westeros are trying to trust each other and set aside their petty squabbles as they rally against the forces of darkness: the Night King's zombie army.

Not everyone got the memo.

Cersei has tricked Jon and Daenerys into thinking she'll join their desperate defense against Night King. Instead, she's secretly importing an army of mercenaries to defend her claim to the Iron Throne. Her calculation: Jon and Daenerys will defeat the Army of the Dead, but the zombie-fight will leave them so weakened that she can finish them off later and rule the realm alone.

Economists have a name for people like Cersei. And it's not an expletive. They call her a "free rider"—someone who lets others do what has to be done and reaps the benefits without contributing to the cause.

But going it alone is risky, too. Littlefinger, loyal to no one, tried to pit Arya and Sansa Stark against each other and worm his way into power. In the season finale, he paid for his treachery with his life. Sansa later reflects, quoting her late father, that "the lone wolf dies, but the pack survives."

Also dubious is the Iron Bank of Braavos' decision to back Cersei Lannister even though Westeros is under zombie attack and her mortal enemy, Daenerys, has at her command two dragons and a vast army that includes the fearsome Dothraki horse lords.

"Frankly, as a central banker, I'm very worried about the Iron Bank's business model," said our guest this week, Mark Wright, "Game of Thrones" fan and research director at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. "We have them lending again at a time when the ability of Westeros to generate foreign-exchange revenue to repay the bank has got to be pretty low. You've had a war raging over the seven kingdoms. You've got winter, which is going to wipe out agricultural production... I'd be pretty worried about the Iron Bank getting repaid anytime soon.

So what would Wright do?

"I'd want to have a good look at the vault, see how many reserves they have on hand," he said.

Stepdaughter: Fights thwart film remakes of Steinbeck novels

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Film remakes of "The Grapes of Wrath" and "East of Eden" fell apart because John Steinbeck's son and daughter-in-law impeded the projects, the writer's stepdaughter says.

Waverly Scott Kaffaga alleges that long-running litigation over the author's estate has prevented her from making the most of Steinbeck's copyrights at a time when marquee names such as Steven Spielberg and Jennifer Lawrence were interested in bringing some his masterpieces back to the screen.

"The catalog has been dirtied by these legalities," Kaffaga told jurors in federal court Tuesday. "The whole Steinbeck canon has been put into doubt."

Kaffaga, daughter of the late author's third wife, Elaine, is suing the estate of stepbrother Thomas Steinbeck, who died last year, and his widow and their company.

The lawsuit follows a decades-long dispute between Thomas Steinbeck and Kaffaga's mother over control of the author's works.

Thomas Steinbeck has lost most rounds in court, including a lawsuit he and the daughter of his late brother, John Steinbeck IV, brought that spurred Kaffaga to countersue in the current case.

A judge already ruled the couple breached a contract with Kaffaga. Jurors must decide if Thomas and Gail Steinbeck interfered with deals and should pay up.

Attorneys for Kaffaga did not name a price in court, but Gail Steinbeck said they previously asked the judge for $6.5 million plus punitive damages.

Gail Steinbeck's lawyer said she never intentionally interfered in deals she and her husband would have benefited from and that would have served their interest promoting the Nobel Prize winner's legacy.

An attorney for Kaffaga said Gail Steinbeck caught wind of projects and then threatened movie makers that she and her husband had legal rights to the work and also cut secret side deals without notifying Kaffaga.

In one instance, Thomas Steinbeck secretly signed a $650,000 deal with DreamWorks to be an executive producer on a film remake of "The Grapes of Wrath," the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel that starred Henry Fonda on the silver screen that won two Oscars.

Producers and directors later dropped the remakes because they feared litigation by the Steinbecks, Kaffaga's attorney Susan Kohlmann said in her opening statement.

Kohlmann put Gail Steinbeck on the witness stand early in the case and displayed emails that she wrote suggesting that a reported remake of "East of Eden" starring Lawrence would be "litigation city."

Another email Gail Steinbeck wrote after her husband lost a related court case in New York suggested litigation wouldn't end until "I draw my last breath."

Steinbeck laughed off that comment in testimony, saying, "Oh, that was silly."

Defense attorney Matthew Berger noted that Kaffaga was never adopted by John Steinbeck and was not one of his heirs. He said Thomas Steinbeck was a co-owner of his father's copyright and received royalties.

Gail Steinbeck estimated conservatively that her husband received $120,000 a year in publishing royalties from the author's work—and as much as $200,000 in some years.

Berger said Kaffaga's claim had no merit and she wasn't entitled to any damages because most movies optioned are never made and that estimated revenue from unproduced projects was speculation.

Berger suggested Kaffaga was using Thomas' inheritance to sue his widow.

Waverly Scott Kaffaga, stepdaughter of author John Steinbeck, leaves federal court in downtown Los Angeles on Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2017. AP

George Clooney on fatherhood, Trump and 'Suburbicon'

NEW YORK (AP)—Most things have changed in George Clooney's life since he and wife Amal welcomed twins in July. But as he prepares to unveil his latest directorial effort, "Suburbicon," some rituals remain eerily familiar.

"I just have to clean the barf off of my tux," says Clooney. "It used to be my barf but now it's the twins' barf. So it all works out."

It's a new chapter for Clooney, but one with some old moves. "Suburbicon," which Paramount Pictures will release Oct. 27, marries two twin passions of his: farce ("Burn After Reading," ''O Brother Where Art Thou") and socially conscious filmmaking ("Good Night and Good Luck," ''Ides of March").

But despite the comic trailers, it leans a little more to the latter. Clooney believes the film, which peers into the dark racial tensions of 1950s suburbia, is deeply relevant to Donald Trump's America. It bristles, he hopes, with the spirit of Howard Beale, the truth-telling "Network" newsman who yelled, "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore."

"I last week screened it for my good friend Norman Lear. When it was over, he looked over and said, 'This is the angriest film I've ever seen,'" said Clooney in a recent interview with The Associated Press. "It's a pretty angry film. There's a lot of anger out there. I think that's reflected in the film.

"The main idea of the film was to pick some fights and I always like picking fights."

That makes "Suburbicon" potentially one of the more combustible films of the fall movie season. It boasts a starry cast (Matt Damon, Julianne Moore, Oscar Isaac) and comes from an unproduced, decades-old script by Joel and Ethan Coen about rampant suburban paranoia and fear-mongering after a home invasion.

For Clooney and his writing-producing partner Grant Heslov, the Coens' characters were perfect for plans of their own to dramatize 1950s Levittown, Pennsylvania, and specifically the enclave's response in 1957 to a black family moving in. It's a tale, they believe, that mirrors today's political landscape.

"I found it interesting to talk about building walls and scapegoating minorities," said Clooney. "I think that's always an interesting topic but particularly when I was hearing these conversations on the campaign trail. I thought: It's always good to look back and remember that nothing really is new and every time we're shocked, we forget that we've had this behavior time and time and time again."

Clooney and Amal last week announced a $1 million grant, through their Clooney Foundation, to the Southern Poverty Law Center to combat hate groups. The donation was a reaction to Charlottesville. Clooney, a longtime liberal activist, doesn't mince his words when it comes to President Donald Trump.

"It becomes increasingly clear how in over his head and incapable this man is of being president of the United States," said Clooney. "The good news is that our other institutions—meaning press, finally, and judges and senators—have proven that the country works. There is a check and balance."

But if Clooney sounds unusually pugnacious for a newfound father, he grants his life has changed drastically in the last two months. "Suddenly, you're responsible for other people, which is terrifying," he chuckled before heaping credit on his wife. "She's like an Olympic athlete," he says. "She's doing so beautifully."

AP

In this Feb. 24, 2017 file photo, actor George Clooney, left, and Amal Clooney arrive at the 42nd Cesar Film Awards ceremony at Salle Pleyel in Paris. Clooney directs the upcoming film, "Suburbicon," written by starring Matt Damon, Oscar Isaac and Julianne Moore.

"Right now my job is changing diapers and walking them around a little bit," said Clooney, speaking from his home in Lake Como, Italy. "I really didn't think at 56 that I would be the parent of twins. Don't make plans. You always have to just enjoy the ride."

"Suburbicon" is Clooney's sixth film as director and his first since 2014's "The Monuments Men." Filmmaking remains his focus, at least professionally speaking.

"I'm in an interesting place in my life. I'm acting almost never—for a lot of reasons, mostly because I don't have any great interest in it and haven't read anything (good enough)," he says. "If somebody showed up with 'The Verdict,' I'd jump but it's not all that often you get 'Michael Clayton' kind of scripts. And if you're not going to get those, there's no real point at this point in my career."

"They still let me do what I want to do," Clooney adds. "As long as that's the case, then I'm going to keep doing it. For me, you've got to keep pushing the envelope until they take everything away—which they eventually do with everybody."

Who's sorry now? Not Kathy Griffin over Trump photo, video

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kathy Griffin retracted her apology for a gory image of a fake Donald Trump head, saying anger against her was overblown and should be directed at Trump and his administration.

A feisty Griffin, interviewed Tuesday on Australian TV in advance of an international comedy tour, slammed the president and his actions as she reversed course from her tearful mea culpa in May.

"So the picture happened, the outrage was ridiculous, I made an apology, and now in light of all the crazy stuff that he (Trump) and this administration are doing..... He's unhinged," she said on the morning show "Sunrise."

Griffin

The comedian condemned Trump's pardon of former Arizona lawman Joe Arpaio and the president's call for a ban on military service by transgender people. She also referred to Trump as a "fool," among other derogatory terms.

One "Sunrise" host pressed her on whether it was out of line to pose for photos and a video with a mask of Trump covered in tomato sauce to simulate blood from a severed head. Griffin pushed back.

"Stop acting like my little picture is more important than talking about the actual atrocities that the president of the United States is committing," she said.

Griffin said she lost friends and work, and received death threats during the uproar.

She had quickly apologized in a video in which she called the Trump image "disturbing" and also during a tearful news conference, but was fired from her most high-profile job as co-host of CNN's New Year's Eve Celebration. Comedy gigs were canceled.

It didn't take long for her to realize that what was happening to her could be the basis of laughs, Griffin said during a satellite interview, and she decided to embark on the "Laugh Your Head Off" tour.

She's also on "a mission to tell people, honestly, if it happened to me, as big mouthed and obnoxious as I am, it can happen to you," said Griffin.

Griffin spoke this week by satellite to "Sunrise" and another Australian show, "The Project," to promote her upcoming appearances there. She'll also be on stage in Europe and elsewhere.

Mom feels guilt for resisting her ex's pleas to reconcile

DEAR ABBY: My ex is a recovering drug addict. We have a 2-year-old son together. I realized he was using drugs when I was seven months pregnant and all our money was gone.

I stayed with him for a year after I learned about his addiction. That year was the hardest year of my life. Choosing to leave was extremely painful, and I still cry about it every day.

My ex was never the type of addict who nodded off, cheated or had other issues; if it hadn't been for the money disappearing, we would have had a perfect relationship. He finally went to rehab and seems to be doing well. He still goes to work at a great job, pays child support now and is involved with our son, who adores him. He wants us to get back together.

It has been more than a year since we separated—and I hate to admit this, but I'm the happiest I have ever been. Abby, I feel guilty about it. Even though I love him, he broke me as a person with his lies, and I don't think I can ever trust him. I love my life with my son, and the thought of us living as a family in one house again makes me sick. I feel ashamed for not wanting to try, and these feelings are crippling.

I told him I want him to move on, but he says he will always love me and will never give up. Do I owe it to him—and our child—to try and work it out?

HAPPIER WITHOUT HIM

DEAR HAPPIER: No, you do not. You are in charge of your life now, and if that gives you peace of mind and makes you happy, then you are under no moral or ethical obligation to change it.

Please remember that you are not responsible for your ex's happiness. You may always love each other, but that doesn't obligate you. If he wants to "never give up," that is his choice. If you want to move on with your life, that is your choice and your privilege.

DEAR ABBY: Can you settle a dispute between my husband and me? Sometimes, I take it upon myself to hand-wash my car because I enjoy seeing my hard work reflected in my shiny car. When I do, it sparks an argument.

His view is that since he's the man, he should be responsible for washing the car. He says there are certain things "women just don't do." I think I'm perfectly capable of washing my car. Should I give up and let him take care of washing my car, or should I stand my ground?

JUST AS CAPABLE

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR CAPABLE: If you want to wash your car occasionally, it should not be grounds for an argument. Many women do, and it's not an issue. However, because your husband seems to find it emasculating, let me suggest that rather than argue about it you allow him to spoil you by doing it for you from time to time. And when he does, if you feel compelled to polish something, let it be your nails while he's out there sweating in the driveway.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

ALL READY? I'LL JUST PUSH THE BUTTON AND OFF WE GO INTO THE FUTURE!
TIME MACHINE
UP, UP AND AWAAYYY!
WE'RE APPROACHING LIGHT SPEED, HOBBES! HANG ON!
I HAVE TO GO TO THE BATHROOM.
NOW?!
IN HYPERSPACE?! ARE YOU CRAZY?!

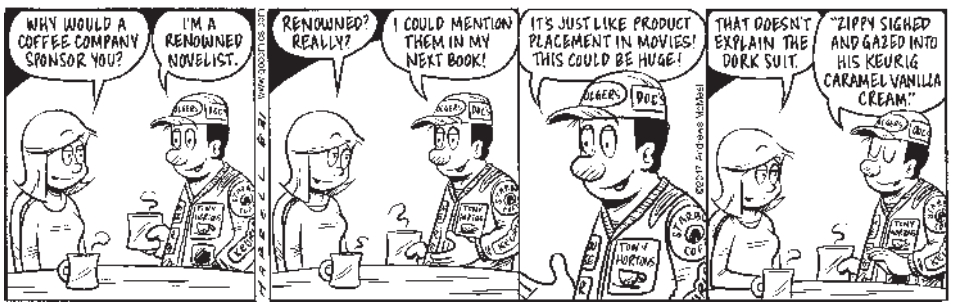
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

CHEW CHEW CHEW CHEW CHEW CHEW CHEW CHEW
IS THAT WHAT I THINK IT IS?
CHEW CHEW CHEW CHEW
CHEWING PRACTICE?!!
THE NEW BUFFET OPENS DOWNTOWN TODAY!
JIM DAVIS 8-31

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHY WOULD A COFFEE COMPANY SPONSOR YOU?
I'M A RENOWNED NOVELIST.
RENOWNED? REALLY?
I COULD MENTION THEM IN MY NEXT BOOK!
IT'S JUST LIKE PRODUCT PLACEMENT IN MOVIES! THIS COULD BE HUGE!
THAT DOESN'T EXPLAIN THE DORK SUIT.
"ZIPPY SIGHED AND GAZED INTO HIS KEURIG CARAMEL VANILLA CREAM."

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

IS THAT THE NEW CEREAL?
YEP... "CHOCO-CHUNKS O' CHOCOLATELY CHOCOLATE. NEW AND IMPROVED."
HOW IS IT IMPROVED?
"NOW WITH MORE CHOCOLATE."

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Detail, briefly
5 Animation frame
8 Raced
12 Snitch
13 Lennon's lady
14 Employ
15 Vicinity
16 Summer sign
17 April forecast
18 With "out," depressed
20 Backbones
22 "— Miniver"
23 Popular card game
24 Unique
27 How a flamingo might stand
32 Teeny
33 Internet address
34 Historic period
35 Attorney's tablet
38 Like custard
39 Yucatan year
40 Bankroll
42 Wolf's kin
45 Least normal
49 Director Kazan
50 Football filler
52 Nest egg choices
53 Active person
54 Actress Gretchen
55 Jazzy Fitzgerald
56 "— Wonderful Life"
57 Future flower
58 Crystal gazer

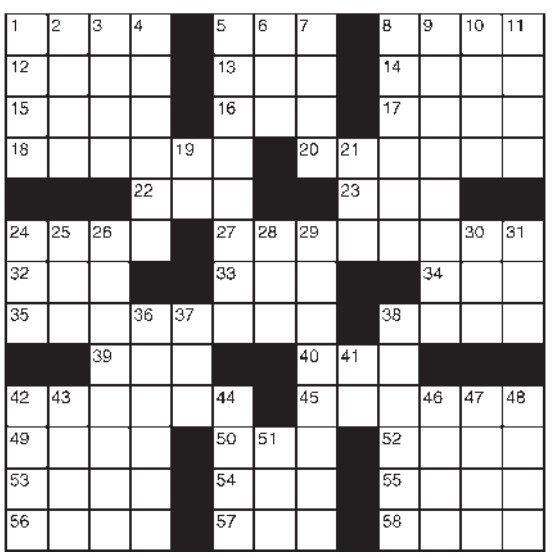
DOWN

1 Wild guess
2 Lima's land
3 Grade sch.
4 Cool and damp
5 Gazpacho, for one
6 Away from WSW
7 Novelist Anita
8 Place of prayer
9 Support for a baby grand
10 New York canal
11 Cozy rooms
19 Hosp. triage area
21 Bit of wit
24 Wise bird
25 Born
26 Bequests
28 Gun lobby org.
29 Traditional, as values
30 Work unit
31 Blithe
36 Turkey's capital
37 Mauna —
38 Wee whirlpools
41 Commercial
42 "Star Wars" knight
43 Oodles
44 Gentle soul
46 Perry's creator
47 Red-tag event
48 Russian ruler
51 Debtor's letters

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	I	R	S		P	O	W		C	D	D	A
B	L	O	T		I	W	O		X	R	A	Y
B	L	U	F	B	F	I	I		P	Y	R	F
F	S	¯	F	F			F	R	O	S	T	S
				L	E	E	R		I	S	P	
J	O	E	Y			_	O	I	N		E	L	K
O	R	G		K	I	O	S	K		L	E	A
B	E	G		E	A	S	T		C	L	O	Y
		S	C	P		T	O	F	U			
T	A	H	I	T	I			A	R	G	U	S
O	R	E	L		H	A	R	D	S	E	L	L
O	G	L	E		C	B	I		O	R	N	O
T	C	L	D		P	L	G		R	E	A	P

Yesterday's answer 8-31



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sara Ramirez, 42; Chris Tucker, 45; Zack Ward, 47; Richard Gere, 68.

Happy Birthday: Make plans to travel, learn and to get ahead this year. Pick up skills, network and make changes instead of just thinking about what you want to pursue. Take control of your life and make decisions that will eliminate whatever is standing in your way. Use your ingenuity to figure out a way to get rid of excess baggage. Your numbers are 8, 15, 21, 29, 32, 43, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Concentrate on work, getting along with your peers and advancement. Take care of your responsibilities, but don't let anyone take credit for your work or try to manipulate you. Keep emotions out of the workplace or classroom. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Alter the way you approach people and the activities you want to pursue and you will have better luck reaching your goals. Show some enthusiasm as well as mental agility. An open mind will encourage support and acceptance. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Look over your personal debt and consider the best way to pay down what you owe. Added discipline and a good plan will encourage success and give you the financial relief you need to get back on track. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Dig in and do your part. What you contribute today will revive your belief in your ability to get things done over the long haul. Persistence and hard work will help you excel and gain the respect and the rewards you deserve. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Doing things with youngsters, seniors and the people who can use your help most will be rewarding. Your generosity and energetic approach to life will set a good example for those incapable of doing things on their own. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Socialize and be a part of whatever is happening and you'll have a say in what's to come. Your input will inspire confidence and could lead to new alliances. Business trips, educational pursuits and communication are all encouraged. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Use your intelligence to outmaneuver anyone who tries to get in your way. Your emotions will flare up easily and waste valuable time if you give in to outside influences. Listen to your heart and use common sense, and you will be triumphant. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Size up any competition you encounter and use your insight and imagination to outdo any threat that comes your way. Anger will not lead to rewards, but doing your best will. If you work hard each day, you'll avoid regrets. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Someone will undermine you if you neglect to protect your personal data and your vulnerabilities. Keep your eyes open and be prepared to make a move or change if necessary. A quick response will ward off future occurrences. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Keep your emotions in check. Try to make changes without upsetting the people who will be affected by your decision. Showing compassion and offering intelligent solutions will help you gain support once everything is in place. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* You'll be attracted to someone who is unique. Researching a different belief or way of doing things will encourage you to use your imagination and come up with personal changes that can make your life better. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* A compassionate response to a plea for help will be your best alternative. Offer suggestions, but don't take on someone else's dilemma. Concentrate on being productive and taking care of your own responsibilities. Don't miss a chance to get ahead. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are smart, inquisitive and persistent. You are practical and proactive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6	3			5	9	
			6	2			
7			5	1			6
8							7
		2			1		
3							9
6			4	9			8
			7	3			
	7	8			3	5	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/31

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	4	1	3	7	8	5	2	6
7	6	3	5	2	1	9	4	8
5	2	8	6	9	4	3	7	1
1	3	2	8	5	7	6	9	4
8	9	6	1	4	2	7	3	5
4	7	5	9	6	3	1	8	2
6	5	7	2	8	9	4	1	3
2	1	9	4	3	6	8	5	7
3	8	4	7	1	5	2	6	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/30

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

IT'S STERLING SILVER Solution: 10 letters

N	I	P	E	N	D	A	N	T	E	A	S	E	T	R
Y	H	I	C	H	A	R	M	S	R	A	T	T	L	E
R	O	T	S	R	E	K	A	H	S	O	E	S	A	V
E	L	C	N	M	R	C	H	C	T	A	W	B	Y	R
L	D	H	A	S	E	V	A	N	I	T	Y	E	A	E
T	E	E	P	S	T	F	Z	L	I	M	I	L	L	S
U	R	R	T	S	S	E	I	I	K	L	V	L	R	E
C	S	E	E	P	A	S	K	N	P	C	S	R	E	S
Y	S	E	L	O	O	S	M	C	K	P	E	R	V	O
O	D	W	K	O	C	O	I	N	O	N	E	N	O	R
T	A	D	N	H	U	R	R	O	I	P	K	R	P	O
G	Ⓤ	E	A	N	P	C	N	A	K	S	A	L	F	S
N	Ⓡ	I	T	C	S	E	R	A	W	T	A	L	F	A
I	Ⓝ	S	D	O	G	T	A	G	S	T	U	D	S	R
R	E	V	L	A	S	G	U	J	E	W	E	L	R	Y

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Anklet, Bell, Caddy, Chain, Charms, Coaster, Coin, Creamer, Cross, Cups, Cutlery, Dog Tag, Flask, Flatware, Holders, Hoops, Jewelry, Jugs, Knife, Mills, Mounts, Necklace, Overlay, Pans, Pendant, Pin, Pitcher, Plate, Pocket, Rattle, Ring, Rosary, Roses, Salver, Seek, Server, Sets, Shakers, Spoon, Strainer, Studs, Tea Set, Toy, Trowel, Urn, Vanity, Vase, Watch, Zipper

Yesterday's Answer: Springfield

To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2**, order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

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Please call 233-4888

Let's Go Tour Company dba Seatouch LLC invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Assistant Animal Handler (1)
High School Diploma or GED with previous work experience in travel or tour operation, sales or service related field. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English, Chinese, and Korean languages. Preferably Lifeguard Certified.

To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than **5:00 PM on September 5, 2017**. Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Century Tours Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Let's Go Tour Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

MVA IS HIRING!!!!

Opening Date: 08/11/17 Closing Date: 9/11/17

JVA#17-011: **Marketing Specialist I**
JVA#17-012: **Accountant II**
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

Interested persons may contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Office at (670) 664-3200/01 or visit www.mymarianas.com for more details.

JVA for YANO Enterprises, Inc. Dba: Kinpachi Restaurant

Cook (2): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Restaurant Waitress (3): Greeting Customers. Must be able to speak basic Japanese & efficient English & have a friendly & outgoing personality. Should be knowledgeable of the restaurant dishes, familiar with the entire menu the establishment offers. Can introduce & recommend daily specials as well as the restaurant's regular menu items. Continued services after the meal have been served and accept payments & other duties related.

General Maintenance (2): Duties may involve skills in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, painting, landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Can typically perform variety of task such as sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking and installing , repairing buildings, floors or stairs.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including weekends and night time.

Applicants of positions listed above except Restaurant Waitress (3 months work experience) are required to have a minimum of 2 - 4 year experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered. Interested applicants must apply in person, applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.
Please no phone calls.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 05-2017

Opening date: August 28, 2017 **Closing date: September 15, 2017**

Positions:(1) Tinian Ports Manager (Tinian) (1) Equipment Operator-I (Saipan)
(1)ARFF Maintenance-I (Saipan) (1) General Maintenance-II (Rota-Seaport)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office West Tinian International Airport or Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport***. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10 year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the West Tinian International Airport or Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport is no later than ***5:00 p.m Friday, September 15, 2017.***

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except on holidays, at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the West Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at cpa.personnel@pticom.com or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

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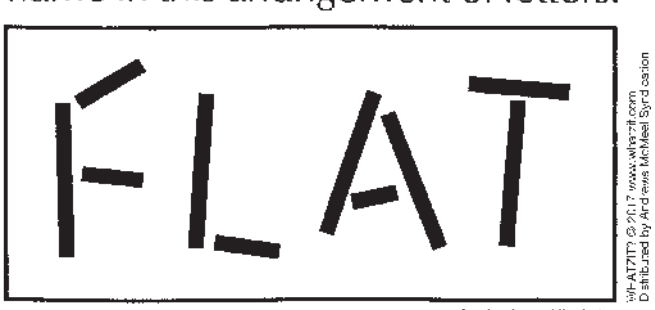

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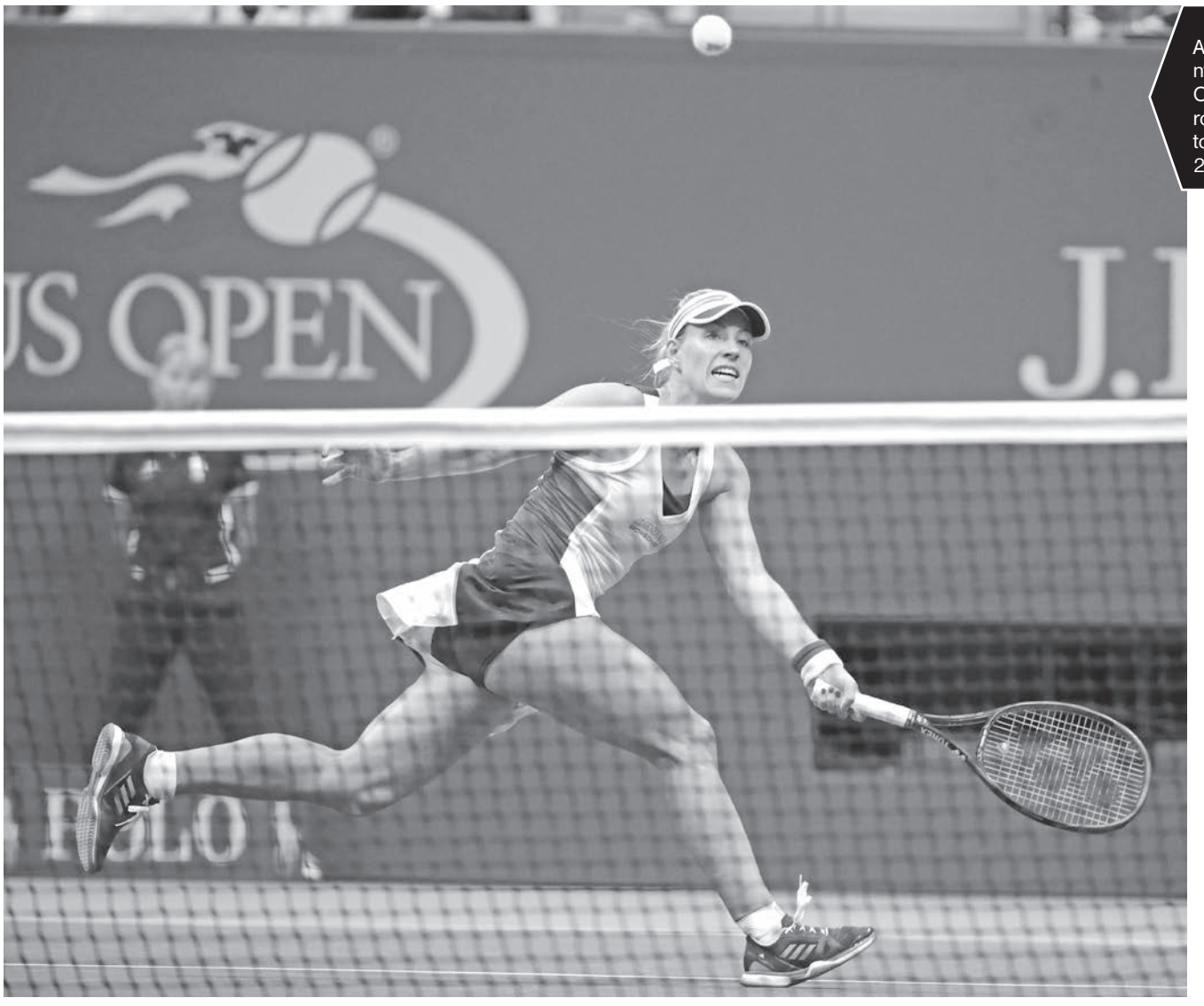

AP
Angelique Kerber, of Germany, returns a shot from Naomi Osaka, of Japan, during the first round of the U.S. Open tennis tournament, Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2017, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—The question was rather simple after Angelique Kerber became only the second defending U.S. Open champion in the professional era to lose in the first round.

The surprisingly lopsided 6-3, 6-1 loss to 45th-ranked Naomi Osaka of Japan under the closed roof in Arthur Ashe Stadium at a rainy Flushing Meadows on Tuesday was former No. 1 Kerber's latest in a long list of disappointing performances in 2017, so she was asked what she thinks went wrong this season.

She sighed, shrugged her shoulders and began to answer: "I don't know."

Moments later, her eyes darting around the room, she added, "This year is a completely different year."

Talk about an understatement. In 2016, Kerber broke through to the top of tennis in a spectacular way. A player with only one previous Grand Slam semifinal appearance reached the first three major title matches of her career, winning two of them: She stunned Serena Williams in the Australian Open final, lost to Williams in the Wimbledon final, and then beat Karolina Pliskova in the U.S. Open final to rise to the top of the WTA rankings for the first time.

Her follow-up has been quite a flop. Kerber, a 29-year-old German, hasn't won any title of any sort this season. She is only 25-18 overall, 0-9 against opponents ranked in the top 20, and Tuesday's loss assured her of falling out of the top 10 for the first time since October 2015. At Grand Slam tournaments she is 6-4, including another first-round loss in May at the French Open, where she became that tournament's first No. 1 seed to lose so early.

"I know that I'm strong and I know that I will come back stronger, for sure. I know that I will not (be) giving up," said Kerber, the first defending champion to lose in the U.S. Open's first round since Svetlana Kuznetsova in 2005.

Showers showed up before noon Tuesday and led to the postponements of dozens of matches. The only court used in the afternoon and evening was Ashe, thanks to the retractable cover constructed ahead of last year's tournament.

The only men's matches completed were there, and Roger Federer overcame a slow start and then a late lapse to edge 19-year-old American Frances Tiafoe 4-6, 6-2, 6-1, 1-6, 6-4 in a compelling first-rounder at night.

Federer's footwork and strokes were off in the first set, and he repeatedly gave Tiafoe points via miscues. Federer then appeared to take control by grabbing eight of nine games en route to taking a 2-1 lead in sets. But Tiafoe rediscovered his own powerful shots to force a fifth set. Federer went up 3-1, then got broken while serving for the match at 5-3. But he broke right back, finally converting his third match point.

Federer earned his 79th career victory at the U.S. Open, equaling Andre Agassi for second-most behind Jimmy Connors' 98.

Federer's possible semifinal foe and chief rival for the title, No. 1 Rafael Nadal, overcame a first-set hiccup of his own before overpowering Dusan Lajovic of Serbia 7-6 (6), 6-2, 6-2.

The women's No. 1 seed, Pliskova, easily advanced by beating Magda Linette 6-2, 6-1, French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko got past Lara Arruabarrena 6-2, 1-6, 6-1 in a match that started on Court 17 then was moved indoors at Ashe, and No. 23 Barbora Strycova defeated Misaki Doi 6-1, 6-3. Yet another seeded woman was eliminated when No. 28 Lesia Tsurenko lost to Yanina Wickmayer 6-3, 6-1.

At night in Ashe, No. 15 Madison Keys of the U.S. compiled a 32-9 edge in winners and moved into the second round by beating Elise Mertens of Belgium 6-3, 7-6 (6). Keys got broken while serving for the match at 6-5, and then faced a set point at 6-5 in the tiebreaker. But Keys delivered a big forehand to force a backhand error by Mertens, starting a three-point run for the American to close out the victory.

"I would say I was probably one of the luckier people all day," Keys said, "to just kind of know I was going to get a match in today."

Kerber's exit further thins the women's bracket, which was missing 23-time major champion Serena Williams to begin with because she is expecting a baby. Three of the top seven seeded women were gone before dinnertime on Day 2, with No. 6 Kerber joining Monday's losers, No. 2 Simona Halep—beaten by Maria Sharapova in her first Grand Slam match since a 15-month doping suspension—and No. 7 Johanna Konta.

While Kerber's quick departure was stunning in and of itself, that Osaka would be the one to do it might not be quite so remarkable, even if she is just 19 and never won before against a top-10 woman.

Osaka is comfortable around the grounds at Flushing Meadows, where she has been spending time, and even occasionally practicing, since she was a kid: She was born in Osaka, Japan, so represents that country, but moved to the U.S. when she was 3, has dual citizenship, and used to live on Long Island.

"The site," Osaka said, "feels really familiar to me."

She nearly upended Keys in the U.S. Open's third round last year, leading 5-1 in the third set before losing in a tiebreaker, a collapse on her mind in the latter stages Tuesday.

NFL teams have 90-man rosters for preseason finales

By ARNIE STAPLETON
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

Out with the cringe and in with the fringe.

The final slate of preseason games Thursday night will feature fewer key players at risk and more aspiring bubble busters getting one last chance to make their team with the 75-man roster cut down eliminated.

Some 1,200 players will flood the market this weekend as teams go straight from 90-man rosters to 53.

"That helps everyone involved in my opinion," Broncos coach Vance Joseph said. "For the young guys to have a chance to play one more game to prove their worth to us and the entire league, it's valuable for those guys. For our staff to not have to play our valuable backups for an entire game, that's also huge."

For instance, Broncos backup linebacker Corey Nelson "would have to play the entire fourth game" in the old setup, Joseph said. "Now, he can play a quarter, maybe a quarter and a half and now he can sit, watch and get ready for the Chargers" whom the Broncos host Sept. 11 in their opener.

"So, that's big. And in our evaluation it's huge for us also to see those guys one more time, that one more chance to impress a coach with one play you can make. It's awesome for everyone involved."

Ex-general manager Bill Polian agrees. He was a longtime advocate of the league going with just one cut down, which faced stiff opposition on the league's competition committee until this year.

"I think the obvious ramification is that it will give the teams more players with which to play and, as a result, reduce the potential of injuries to key players," Polian said. "The cut to 75 had virtually zero effect other than the fact that it made it much more difficult to get your team ready for opening day by having to play some key guys in the fourth preseason game."

Polian was on the forefront of change in the early 2000s when he was with the Colts and started playing Peyton Manning for just a series or so in the final preseason game. Soon, teams were doing the same to their stars, if they played them at all in the final exhibition game, which they used more for evaluation than preparation.

With 15 more players available to them Thursday night, teams can avoid risking injuries to their starters—Joseph said he plans to sit 25 players or more—and allow key backups to head into the regular season fresher.

"And this game is very important by the way," Polian said. "It's not unimportant. The idea that we don't need four preseason games, I quarrel with that. The fourth preseason game is to determine about the last seven or eight spots on the roster.

"And invariably, by playing all these young kids in this game, you're going to get the opportunity to see someone rise to the top that you didn't anticipate making the team. It happens every single year."

With the 75-man roster cut down, teams used to soften the blow for many veterans by saying they'd released them early so they had a better chance of catching on with another team.

That hardly ever panned out.

"That rule was promulgated when we played the final preseason game on a Saturday or Sunday prior to opening week," Polian said. "Now, if you claimed a guy on waivers Sunday, by the time you get him to your facility and gave him a physical and got him acclimated, you're now on the eve of the fourth preseason game. He's not capable of playing. He doesn't know enough, unless he's a kicker or a punter.

"So, it was non-functional."

Coaches are glad to have 90 players instead of 75 this week.

"I think it's a good thing," Raiders coach Jack Del Rio said. "I know the league will look at it at the end of the day and analyze pluses and minuses, but I know it's a good thing to have. A lot of these young men have one last opportunity to give us an impression as we make our decisions."

It's not just the extra game, but the additional practices that could make a difference.

"It's clearly a benefit for everybody to be able to work with these players another week," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said. "It makes the fourth preseason game more competitive. I think any time you have extra time to develop players, it's nothing but a good thing."

Stanton ties MLB record with 18th home run in August

WASHINGTON (AP)— Giancarlo Stanton tied a major league record with his 18th home run in August, but Anthony Rendon had four RBIs and the Washington Nationals beat the Miami Marlins 8-3 on Tuesday.

Stanton hit a long homer in the first inning off Edwin Jackson (5-3), his 51st this season, to open the scoring following a 26-minute rain delay. His August output matched the mark set by Rudy York with the Detroit Tigers in 1937. Sammy Sosa set the record for homers in a month when he hit 20 in June 1998, and Stanton has two games left this month to catch the former Cubs slugger.

Stanton added an RBI with a deep sacrifice fly in the fifth inning.

Rendon's three-run double in the seventh came after Washington's bullpen thwarted a rally earlier in the inning. Daniel Murphy also had a two-run single.

The Nationals, 16-7 since Aug. 6, had five runs and nine hits in 4 1/3 innings against Vance Worley (2-4).

AP
Miami Marlins' Giancarlo Stanton flies out during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Washington Nationals, Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2017, in Washington.

Red Sox 3, Blue Jays 0

In Toronto, Chris Sale and two relievers combined on a four-hitter, Hanley Ramirez hit a solo home run and Boston beat Toronto.

Sale (15-6) fanned 11 in his major league-best 17th double-digit strikeout game, raising his league-leading total to 264. His 15 wins lead the AL.

Sale, who matched a season-worst by allowing seven runs in his previous outing, pitched seven innings. The left-hander has not allowed a run in 22 innings against the Blue Jays this season.

Craig Kimbrel finished for his 31st save in 35 chances.

Promoted from Triple-A Buffalo to make his first start for the Blue Jays, left-hander Brett Anderson (2-3) allowed one run in 5 2/3 innings.

Orioles 4, Mariners 0

In Baltimore, Dylan Bundy threw a one-hitter for his first career shutout, Manny Machado hit two of Baltimore's four solo homers, and the Orioles extended their winning streak to six games.

Bundy (13-8) allowed just a bunt single to Kyle Seager in the fourth inning and set a career high with 12 strikeouts. The right-hander has a 2.00 ERA in August and has struck out 10 or more in three of his last four starts.

Jonathan Schoop and Welington Castillo also homered for the Orioles, who moved two games over .500 for the first time since June 10.

Schoop collected his 29th homer of the season and 500th career hit with a solo shot in the first off Erasmo Ramirez (5-5).

Royals 6, Rays 2

In Kansas City, Missouri, Whit Merrifield, Jorge Bonifacio and Eric Hosmer homered as Kansas City snapped a 45-inning scoreless streak on the way to a victory over Tampa Bay.

Merrifield's 16th home run with two outs in the third ended the Royals' drought, three innings shy of the major league record. The 1906 Philadelphia Athletics and 1968 Chicago Cubs share the mark with 48 scoreless innings.

Bonifacio homered with two outs in the sixth off Alex Cobb (9-9).

Cobb gave up a run on three singles and three wild pitches in the fourth. Hosmer scored on Mike Moustakas' single, but the Royals stranded runners at second and third.

Royals rookie Jake Junis (6-2) did not allow a hit until a one-out single in the fifth.

Cubs 4, Pirates 1

In Chicago, Jake Arrieta continued his dominant second half with six innings of two-hit ball, Ben Zobrist homered and Chicago beat Pittsburgh.

Anthony Rizzo went 3 for 4 with an RBI, Alex Avila had an RBI single and Jason Heyward added a sacrifice fly for NL Central-leading Chicago.

Arrieta (14-8) struck out four and retired the last seven batters he faced, leaving after 97 pitches with a 3-0 lead. He hasn't allowed more than two earned runs in any of his nine starts since the All-Star break, going 6-1 with a 1.59 ERA during that span.

Wade Davis got the final three outs for his 27th save in 27 chances to establish a new Cubs record for consecutive saves opportunities converted.

Chad Kuhl (6-10) allowed three runs in 5 1/3 innings.

Cardinals 10, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Matt Carpenter hit a two-run homer and Luke Voit drove in four runs, backing Luke Weaver's 10-strikeout night in a 10-2 win Tuesday over the Milwaukee Brewers.

Carpenter's shot to right in the fifth had added importance for the third baseman after he had pledged $10,000 for every home run that he hit the rest of the season to Hurricane Harvey relief efforts. The Galveston, Texas native looked up and pointed two fingers toward the night sky as he touched the plate to extend the Cardinals' lead to 9-1.

St. Louis chased Matt Garza (6-8) with one out in the fourth. The right-hander walked five and allowed six runs, though only three were earned after the Brewers committed two errors in the third.

The loss dropped the second-place Brewers to 3 1/2 games back of the NL Central-leading Cubs, who won on Tuesday.

Rangers 12, Astros 2

St. Petersburg, Florida, Shin-Soo Choo homered and drove in four runs, helping Texas rout Houston in the opener of a series relocated to Florida due to flooding caused by Hurricane Harvey.

Adrian Beltre of the Rangers drove in three runs to pass Hall of Famer Ernie Banks for 28th on the career RBI list with 1,637, and Joey Gallo hit a two-run homer off Mike Fiers (8-9) before an announced crowd of 3,485 at Tropicana Field, the home of the Tampa Bay Rays.

The three-game series that concludes Thursday was moved from Minute Maid Park because of flooding in the Houston area, with the Astros serving as the home team after the Rangers declined a proposal to play the games in Arlington, Texas.

It's only the fourth time in major league history that games have been relocated to neutral sites because of weather.

Martin Perez (10-10) pitched seven strong innings for the Rangers.

Twins 6, White Sox 4

In Minneapolis, Jorge Polanco homered twice and Ervin Santana struck out seven while pitching into the seventh inning, leading Minnesota past Chicago.

Eduardo Escobar drove in two runs for the Twins, who started the day with a one-game lead over the Los Angeles Angels in the crowded race for the second AL wild card. Santana (14-7) matched his highest total for wins since he was a 17-game winner 2010 with the Angels.

Matt Belisle pitched the ninth for his fifth save. James Shields (2-5) has not won for the White Sox in 10 starts.

Diamodnbacks 7, Dodgers 6

In Phoenix, A.J. Pollock hit a two-run homer and Arizona roughed up Rich Hill in his follow-up to a near no-hitter.

Hill (9-6) pitched nine no-hit innings against Pittsburgh on Wednesday, losing the no-hitter and the game on Josh Harrison's walk-off homer in the 10th.

The Diamondbacks scored 11 runs to complete a three-game sweep of San Francisco on Sunday and kept hitting after a day off, knocking around Hill in a five-run first inning.

Paul Goldschmidt homered and Fernando Rodney allowed a run-scoring single by Chris Taylor in the ninth before closing out his 33rd save. The wild card-leading Diamondbacks have won five straight.

Taylor hit a two-run homer and Yasiel Puig a solo shot off Zack Godley (6-7) for the NL West-leading Dodgers, who have lost three in a row for the first time since early June.

Rockies 7, Tigers 3

In Denver, Nolan Arenado capped a four-run seventh inning with his 30th homer, and Colorado beat Detroit.

Arenado's three-run shot broke open a close game and helped the Rockies win for the fourth time in six tries. Colorado increased its lead to four games over Milwaukee for the second NL wild card.

Colorado went ahead 4-3 on singles by Jonathan Lucroy and Trevor Story, and a sacrifice fly by pinch-hitter Carlos Gonzalez off starter Michael Fulmer (10-12).

Charlie Blackmon reached on a fielder's choice. Warwick Saupold walked DJ LeMahieu, and Arenado followed with his three-run drive to reach 30 homers for the third straight season. He leads the majors with 111 RBIs.

Rockies starter German Marquez tied a career high with 10 strikeouts before leaving with one out in the seventh. Pat Neshek (2-1) got the last two outs of the inning.

Angels 8, Athletics 2

In Anaheim, California, C.J. Cron hit two homers, including a three-run drive in the first inning, and Los Angeles beat Oakland.

Ben Revere had two RBIs for the Angels, who have won three of four and are one game behind Minnesota for the second AL wild card.

Cron drove a three-run homer off Chris Smith (0-4) in the first inning and also had a solo shot in the eighth.

Jesse Chavez (7-10) threw four scoreless relief innings.

Reds 14, Mets 4

In Cincinnati, Scott Schebler hit his first career grand slam, and Cincinnati ended its 14-game losing streak against New York.

The Reds hadn't beaten the Mets since Sept. 6, 2014. They'd dropped their last eight to New York at Great American Ball Park, where the Mets are 30-16 all-time — the best winning percentage by any NL team.

Cincinnati put it away with a seven-run eighth inning that featured Adam Duvall's three-run homer. Mets catcher Kevin Plawecki made his second appearance on the mound this season and induced a double-play grounder.

Reds rookie Sal Romano (4-5) made his third straight solid start, allowing three runs and six hits in six innings.

Schebler homered in the first off rookie Chris Flexen (3-3).

Padres 6, Giants 3

In San Diego, Manuel Margot and Jabari Blash homered to back Luis Perdomo's six innings of solid pitching as San Diego beat San Francisco.

Perdomo (7-8) settled in after his pitch count climbed as he wiggled from jams in the first two innings. Brad Hand handled the ninth for his 13th save.

Matt Moore (4-13) was charged with five runs and eight hits, with a walk and a hit batter. He struck out two.

Cuki still looking for more fighters for 'Rampage'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Longtime mixed martial arts organizer Cuki Alvarez is still looking for at least six more individuals who would like to enter the eight-sides to further stack up the fight card of Rites of Passage 22: Rampage set on Sept. 15 at the Marianas Business Plaza.

A replacement fighter that would face Jaybo Frederick of Steel Athletics is needed after Kier Agda pulled out following an injury while training for their scheduled clash in the 185-lb weight class.

Alvarez is also looking for an opponent that would face Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez in a boxing match at a catch weight of 150 lbs. He is also seeking to have four more fighters get matched up with other individuals in their respective weight categories.

Austin Kosam (135-150 lbs), Peter Benavente of Vida BJJ (135 lbs), Sitchiro Langu of Red Ants Academy (155lbs), and John Taisacan (135 lbs) are fighters waiting for their respective opponents.

The second of two kickboxing matches also had some changes with Derrick Evangelista of Guam Muay Thai now facing Railey Miwata of Zalaka in the 135-lb bout. Lenny "Machine Gun" Sablan was supposed to fight Evangelista.

The rest of the fight card stay the same but promoter Alvarez again reminded that it is subject change even weeks before the event.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Roman "Sonic Boom" Alvarez will try to defend his featherweight belt against Robin Eclavea in one of the three scheduled title bouts in Rites of Passage 22: Rampage on Sept. 15 at the Marianas Business Plaza.

Trench Tech's Luis "Two Two" Litulumar will still open things up when he faces William Juanis King of Team Tinian in a kid's exhibition kickboxing match.

Team Tinian's Kimo Adriano and Bad Ass Beach Boys' Andres "The Tanapag Beach Bad Boy" Camacho will kick things off in MMA action followed by the bout of independent fighter Jesse C. Mesa against Jadrien "Last King" Camacho of Down 2 Scrap.

J-Boy Langu, another Red Ants Academy bet, and Team Tinian's Audrien Cruz will be going up against a pair of Zombie MMA fighters in Manny "The Kid" Camacho and George "Game Over" Grover.

The next three bouts will be an inter-island fight with Luta Top Team's L.D. Ogo, John Mendiola, and A.J. Barcinas each facing Perry Mundo, Juschery Castro, and Austin John King of Team Tinian.

A pair of Koreans will be making the trip to Saipan to test the skills of two fighters from Steel Athletics Guam. Team Ace MMA Korea's Sang Hyung Park will take on Seay Camacho, while Korean Top Team's Sung Kwon Kim faces Patrick Ungcangco.

The much-awaited title matches for the flyweight, featherweight, and lightweight belts will close out the expected sold out event. Jordan "The Machine" Manglona, Roman "Sonic Boom" Alvarez, and Guam's Rob "The Deal" Wusstig will be making their respective title defense.

Trench Tech's Manglona aims to keep the flyweight belt in the CNMI when he takes on challenger McKlane "The Game" Alfred of Vida MMA Guam. This will be Manglona's first title defense and MMA match since a split decision win over Guam Muay Thai/Underworld Extreme's Scott "Da Slaya" Eclavea in last year's Pacific Xtreme Combat 52 in Guam.

Roman, another Trench Tech fighter, hopes his long layoff won't cause him any problems when he faces Robin Eclavea of Vida MMA Guam. The reigning featherweight champ got injured twice last year while training for two separate fights.

Team Tuck's Wusstig ends the night as he tries to fend off the challenge of Min Ju Lee of Korean Top Team.

HEALTHY

From Page 28

junior high at Grace Christian Academy."

"He has always opened up the idea of helping me lose weight. He's always invited me to join their workout sessions, but I guess I'm just too lazy," Camacho said with a smile. "That's why he was pleased when I finally decided to join them."

Lee is training and helping some of his friends either lose weight, get back in shape, or recover from an injury at his "garage gym" in their house in Koblerville.

"I was lucky to know James and have him as a trainer. He helped me with a program that's fit me, which is a mix of weight training and cardio that he changes often so you won't get bored. I also have a dietician friend who helped me with my diet and eating habits," said Camacho.

He has already lost almost 60 pounds in a span of six months. Early this month, he tested his renewed strength when he joined Lee and Ando Agulto in the Trench Challenge Obstacle Course Race in Guam.

"It was only in the recreational division but it was a fun experience. There were obstacles that I have not completed since I still have to develop my upper body strength. But there were some that were easy," said Camacho.

"I enjoyed it so much that I'm looking forward to join again next year, hopefully no longer at the recreational level but the actual competition. I have one year to train and get in shape with James," he added.

He said he is now looking to bring down his body fat percentage from 25 percent to 20 percent. "I'm not looking to have muscle mass but to maintain my weight and lower my body fat percentage."

Camacho is also encouraging others to make the decision to change their lifestyle. "They should do it. This is your body so you need to take care of it and keep it healthy. You get more energy to do stuff. Like me, I feel better and happier now."

CAROL

From Page 28

fellow CNMI player Malika Miyawaki also won their first two games convincingly, yielding only one point each to their foes. In the finals, Lee and Miyawaki cruised to a 6-2 triumph against Guitton and Samoa's Eleanor Schuster in the first set before being outclassed in the second, 5-7. The CNMI pair then dominated the super-tiebreaker third set, 10-5, to give Lee the sweep and Miyawaki her first doubles title in the girls U16 division.

The world No. 212 also played in the POCJ Team Event and was unbeaten, too in four games. Her perfect record in the second week of the POJC helped the North Team tie East Team on top of the standings. North and East had similar 9-7 records in the round-robin play, but the latter was declared the champion by winning the tie that was resolved via the sets win/loss mark of each squad.

Meanwhile, Lee will return to Saipan for a well deserved two-week break before she goes back to Fiji to train again at the ITF/OTF regional facility and prepare for four ITF Juniors Circuit tournaments.

TEEN

From Page 28

AFC tournament," the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director added.

Mita, along with assistant coaches Jershwin Angeles and Jonathan Takano, are working with the Teen Ayuyus four times a week since they got back from a training camp in Guam last month. They are consistently putting hours of practice time despite the uncooperative weather, training at the indoor pitch at the TSL Sports Complex to polish individual and team plays.

Twenty-two players are attending the rigorous training sessions and the number will be down to 19 today when Mita and his assistant coaches name the members of the squad that will represent the Commonwealth to the AFC tournament in Thailand.

The qualifier will take place at the Rajamangala Stadium in Bangkok with the Teen Ayuyus debuting against Indonesia on Sept. 16. For its second game, the CNMI will face host and early favorite Thailand on Sept. 18, while the Teen Ayuyus' match versus Laos is set for Sept. 20. For their final game, the Commonwealth players will take on Timor-Leste on Sept. 24. The top finisher in the round-robin play in Group G will advance to next year's finals along with the winners in the nine other pools.

"We will do our best to bring positive results from Thailand," said Mita, who thanked the squad's supporters.

"We continue to get a lot of support from the parents and NMIFA and they are a big boost to the team. We appreciate all the help we are getting from them. Keep cheering for your Teen Ayuyus," the head coach said.

The Teen Ayuyus will leave Saipan for Thailand on Sept. 14.

Governor's Tourism Cup set Saturday

The Marianas Tourism Education Council will be the beneficiary for the upcoming Governor's Tourism Cup Golf Tournament. The tournament date is set for Saturday, Sept. 2, at the scenic Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's east course with a tee time set at 7:30am.

This is the second year the Marianas Visitors Authority will host the tournament.

"With tourism headed in a positive direction, we must continue to reinforce the importance of our tourism industry to all, but most especially the generations that follow. It is vital that businesses support MTEC in its mission of developing tourism related programs for our high school students," said MTEC chair Victoria Benavente.

Major Sponsors Bank of Guam, Bridge Capital, Hyatt Regency Saipan, IT&E, DFS T-Galleria, and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation have all stepped forward with their support this year.

Joeten Enterprises, Pacific Islands Club, Best Sunshine, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, *Saipan Tribune*, *Marianas Variety*, and the Sorensen Media Group-Power 99 lend their support as Classic Sponsors.

Hole-In-One Sponsors Joeten Motor Company, Pacifica Insurance, AK Toyota, and Triple J Motors have put forth fantastic prizes of cash and cars.

First Hawaiian Bank, PHI Pharmacy, Island Training Solutions, IP&E, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Marianas Resort & Spa, MarPac, and Pacific Trading Co. have come on board as Classic Contributors.

Tournament director James Nelson said, "We must continue to support MTEC as they have a direct impact on our tourism industry and the student community."

This year's entry fee is $100 and includes cart and green fees, morning snacks, free-flowing on-course refreshments, and awards banquet. Participants can also look forward to the nearest to the pin and longest drive competitions, as well as the ever popular hot-dog stand out on the course.

Entry forms are available and payments accepted at the Marianas Visitors Authority and Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. Golfers are encouraged to enter as soon as possible as player slots are filling up fast and only 144 golfers can be accommodated. ***(PR)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	75	57	.568	—
New York	70	60	.538	4
Baltimore	67	65	.508	8
Tampa Bay	66	68	.493	10
Toronto	61	71	.462	14

Central Division

Cleveland	74	56	.569	—
Minnesota	68	63	.519	6½
Kansas City	65	66	.496	9½
Detroit	57	74	.435	17½
Chicago	52	78	.400	22

West Division

Houston	79	52	.603	—
Los Angeles	68	65	.511	12
Seattle	66	67	.496	14
Texas	65	66	.496	14
Oakland	58	74	.439	21½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	80	51	.611	—
Miami	66	65	.504	14
Atlanta	57	72	.442	22
New York	57	74	.435	23
Philadelphia	49	81	.377	30½

Central Division

Chicago	71	60	.542	—
Milwaukee	68	64	.515	3½
St. Louis	66	65	.504	5
Pittsburgh	63	70	.474	9
Cincinnati	56	76	.424	15½

West Division

Los Angeles	91	39	.700	—
Arizona	74	58	.561	18
Colorado	72	60	.545	20
San Diego	58	74	.439	34
San Francisco	53	81	.396	40

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2017 Heineken Guam Rugby Sevens

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The CNMI's Kelvin Fitial holds his ground against a tackle from The Alliance defender during their game in the 2017 Heineken Guam Rugby Sevens held at the University of Guam Calvo Field House in Mangilao last weekend.

Two CNMI defenders tackle a BBC player.

The CNMI's Ben Jones Jr. tries to pin down a Flying Proas player.

CNMI and BBC players hold each other down as they battle for the ball.

A CNMI player gets away from The Alliance defender.

Members of the CNMI Rugby Sevens Team huddle before their semis game against the Flying Proas.

CNMI players get ready for the next play against the Flying Proas.

The CNMI's Stanley Iakopo, third left, faces three defenders.

'16 champ Kerber exits at rainy US Open; Federer edges teen

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Sports

Stanton ties MLB record with 18th home run in August

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Bittersweet POJC stint for Carol

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Carol Lee, seen here in the Juniors ITF event on Saipan in 2016, played in her last Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji early this month.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Carol Lee's U16 singles championship in the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships is her last.

The title in the tournament held early this month in Fiji was the CNMI bet's third straight in the age group, giving her the distinction of becoming the first player in the region to achieve that feat.

"POJC will always be special to me. I loved representing Northern Marianas and the North Pacific every year. It was a great platform for me since I was 12, and performing well there gave me opportunities to compete internationally," said Lee, who is also the only player in Pacific Oceania to rule three different age groups competitions (U12, U14, and U16) in the annual tournament that features players from 19 counties.

"It's sad that I won't be competing next year, but I hope that I've set an example for younger players, especially girls, so that they can represent their countries with pride, and know that if they work hard, POJC is just the beginning of better opportunities for them," the 15-year-old player added.

Lee did not drop a single set in her girls U16 title conquest in her swan song in the POJC. She shut down both her foes in the pool play and then allowed only a point in the first two games in the playoffs. In the finals, she was never threatened, easing her way to a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Tahiti's top player Naia Guitton.

In the doubles, Lee and

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Teen Ayuyus go for final push

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

With the AFC U16 Championship 2018 Qualifiers fast approaching, the CNMI U15 Boys National Team is going all out in its preparation for next month's competition.

The Teen Ayuyus have about two weeks left to train before they head to Thailand for the Group G qualifier that will run from Sept. 16 to 24 and head coach Michiteru Mita said they will spend the final stages of their practice sessions fine tuning the players' skills, conditioning, and tactics and team strategies.

"We will focus on tactical understanding and improving our teamwork and physical fitness. We will especially work on team defending and improving our chances to have more ball possessions," said Mita, who gauged the squad's readiness for the Asian Football Confederation-sanctioned tournament at seven.

"We are at seven at this moment, but we will push further and try to make it to 10 in the last two weeks. As you know, we have limited soccer environment compared to the teams we will be facing in Thailand. However, my boys and the coaching staff are doing their best always to prepare for the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
CNMI head coach Michiteru Mita points out a play during a training session of the national team at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

'It's your body, keep it healthy'

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Rodney Camacho, right, enjoys a light moment with James Lee, left, and Ando Agulto after they completed the Trench Challenge Obstacle Course Race in Guam early this month.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Rodney Camacho had been physically active in his younger years when he regularly played basketball with his friends. But things began to change when he left Saipan for college in the mainland.

He first went to Olympic College, a public two-year community college in Bremerton, Washington State before pursuing additional studies at Washington State University. "That's when I started gaining weight. The pressure of university life and studies took over."

"I failed to watch what I eat and [had] less exercise. I was more active in high school, but in college I had no physical activity."

Camacho came back to Saipan after college and found work at the Bureau of Environmental Coastal Quality. Work and the island lifestyle also made him gain weight.

He finally decided to lose the extra pounds when he joined a weight loss challenge at BECQ in February of this year. His weight then was over 270 lbs.

He sought the help of long-time sports enthusiast James Lee, a certified National Academy of Sports Medicine personal trainer. "I've known James since

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